Project Name
Affordable Learning Exchange Racial Justice Grant – The Ohio State University
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Project Abstract
Driven by a mission to increase access and reduce the cost of higher education for Ohio State students and families, the Affordable Learning Exchange (ALX) uses a multi-pronged approach to support faculty who wish to explore affordable alternatives to expensive textbooks. An OER grant program, inclusive access program, statewide OER authoring collaboration project and a free assessment authoring web-based tool all live under the ALX umbrella.

The Racial Justice grant was an addition to our grant offerings with implementation beginning in Autumn 2020. Winners of this grant are expected to include a racial justice component in their course, such as the inclusion of media authored by marginalized scholars, a reading list of relevant content citing Black authors, exercises prompting critical self-reflection and/or discussion, and/or the inclusion of an anti-racist framework for assessment. Grant winners are also encouraged to work closely with ALX and University Libraries staff to source content and are required to make these course materials available to students at no added cost.

The Affordable Learning Exchange Racial Justice Grant Program
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This new opportunity was shared with prior ALX grant winners only, and presented as a pilot opportunity. We chose this strategy because we have established relationships with this group of over 100 faculty, representing all Ohio State campuses and a diverse cross-section of academic units, and OER are already a part of their courses. We have worked closely with the majority of these grant winners, and have built goodwill with this group. We trust them (and

they trust us) to proceed with both a spirit of academic inquiry and with care; we trust them to approach this project with the best intentions and with openness to honest feedback.

After a very short application process, 9 winners were selected in July 2020, with work to begin immediately (with implementation in the classroom beginning in Autumn 2020 in most cases). The ALX team held a kickoff call with each winner in August 2020 to share resources and hear detailed plans, and has "checked in" briefly with grant winners to this point, but has not done any extensive project management. A follow-up survey will be sent in November 2020. After receiving feedback from this group about their experiences, we hope to offer this as part of our portfolio of grant opportunities in future RFP rounds to the University as a whole. Details of the grant award, requirements and deliverable are outlined below.

ALX Grants Program
Since 2016, ALX has awarded grants to instructors who want to transform their courses using open and affordable course materials. Any course at The Ohio State University is eligible for consideration–from small seminars to large, multi-section general education courses. Grant winners receive not only financial support, but also project management, librarian and copyright support. We have funded 105 projects over 5 cohorts that will save Ohio State students $12M through academic year '20-'21, through an affinity partnership with local cable and internet provider, Wide Open West.

Though not explicitly related to our affordability mission, The Affordable Learning Exchange took immediate action in Summer of 2020 toward encouraging both the inclusion of anti-racist course materials into syllabi and the incorporation of enhanced teaching practices built on a foundation of racial justice. We believe it is crucial that our organizations play an active role in addressing social justice issues and inequities within classrooms at Ohio State, and that this action aligns well with the values and mission of the Affordable Learning Exchange. Since writing this case study, we have incorporated this as a permanent part of our grant offering, and funded an additional cohort of 10 Racial Justice Grant recipients to be implemented in August 2021.

Objectives
There are three overarching goals we plan to accomplish before August 2021, assuming feedback from our pilot participants is positive.

They are:
1. Expand the scope of the ALX open call for proposals in December 2020 to do two things, where possible, for all projects funded by our grant (in addition to OER adoption or development):
   a. Embed racial justice curriculum in the syllabi.
   b. Incorporate anti-racist teaching practices in the classroom.
2. Work with faculty in affiliated groups (department, campus, etc.) as a cohort, with the same project focus as #1 (a and b) above.

3. Develop a 3-year strategic plan centering diversity, equity, inclusion and justice as core drivers of the ALX initiative.

To achieve these goals, we must:
- Retain textbook affordability and the tenet of openness as central to this work.
- Work with an advisory board consisting of Office of Distance Education and eLearning staff, University Libraries staff, students and other ALX partners and faculty to determine incentive amounts, goals, shared definitions and scope of ALX work in the next 3 years.
- Engage new partners across the University to inform these decisions and provide faculty and student support.
- Work with college/department academic leadership to establish practices and policies to support faculty doing this work.
- Build and maintain participation in new and existing anti-bias, inclusive teaching and racial justice-themed programming for all participating faculty, from ALX partners.
- Use data to understand changes in diversity, equity and inclusion generally and specifically in courses impacted by these grants at Ohio State as a result of this work.

We have performed and/or are performing following actions, in order:
1. (Summer 2020 – Complete) Offer former and current ALX faculty grant winners an opportunity to apply for a mini-grant ($500) to incorporate a racial justice component to their curricula as they prepare for Autumn 2020. This will be the pilot of our new Racial Justice grant to be offered as a regular part of the ALX open call and campus-specific grant cohorts from the '21-'22 cohort and beyond.
   a. 9 winners were chosen in July 2020.
   b. Open this pilot to those faculty we know and trust, and who know and trust us.
   c. Require them to complete a report in Autumn2020 and meet as a group for discussion and feedback in Spring2021, outlining their strategies, challenges, student and peer reactions to this work.
   d. Ask deans and chairs of the applicant's department/college/school for written letter of support for this work.
   e. Meet with department/campus/unit leaders to develop concrete strategies to support faculty undertaking this work.

2. (Autumn 2020 – In progress) Use responses from the completion reports to develop and launch wide call for proposals in Autumn 2020, and to begin needs analysis and faculty selection for new cohort.
   a. Kickoff in January, implementation in Autumn 2021
   b. Provide professional develop around DEIJ to this cohort
   c. Connect with dedicated resources in University Libraries and provide higher level of project management support.
   d. $500 award

3. (Spring-Summer 2021) Create a 3-year strategic plan for ALX, centering on diversity, equity, inclusion and justice
   a. Retain OER requirements and established minimum affordability requirements for all grant winners.
   b. Tie to teaching and learning certificates and funding and/or participation in Professional Learning curricula.
   c. Engage with new partners (Multicultural Center, Kirwan Institute, College of Social Work, others)
   d. Form advisory board to create recommendations, informed by data collected during pilot cohorts.

Sharable Tools
ALX Racial Justice Grant Call for Proposals and Application
"Racial justice grant program to support diversity in education," August 17, 2020
"Melissa Beers 'Leans On' Racial Justice Through Enhanced Intro to Psychology Course"
September 15, 2020