

# Identifying OER Opportunities in the Sustainability Space

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## OER development through the Sustainability Hub's network

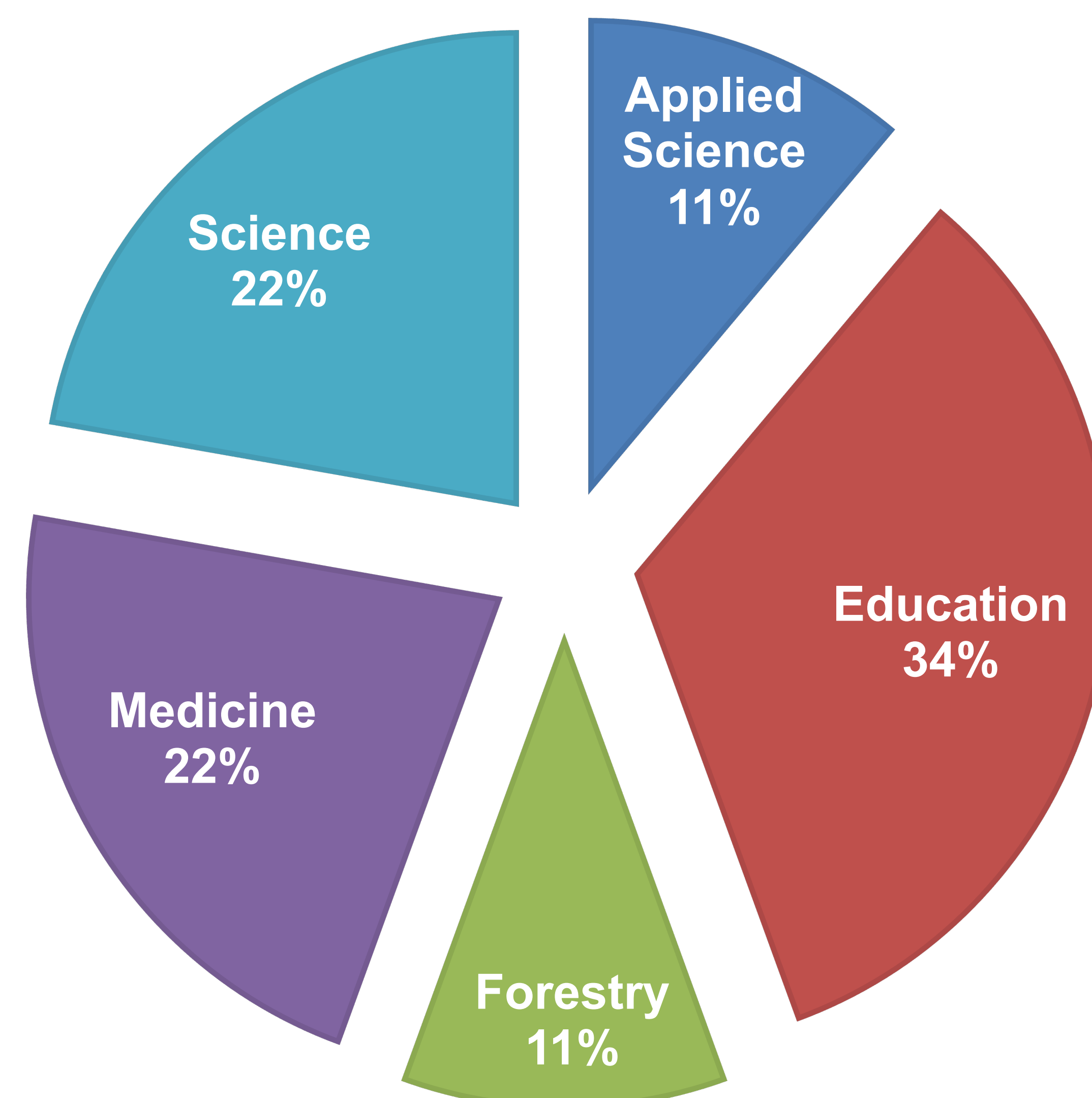
Since 2010, the Sustainability Hub has engaged with faculty members across disciplines to support sustainability education and curriculum development through funding and collaboration opportunities. In 2022 we reviewed over **40 grant reports** and reached out to over **70 grant recipients and cohort participants** to learn about the impact of their curriculum projects including the development of Open Educational Resources (OERs).

## Goals

The goals of this engagement were to:

1. Raise awareness about OERs across our faculty network.
2. Identify the OERs created within this network, and identify cases with potential for OER development.
3. Identify the gaps and barriers that have prevented instructors from creating OERs.
4. Build capacity within our unit to support OER development in the sustainability and climate change fields with a focus on our two main faculty cohorts:
  1. The Sustainability Fellows, and
  2. The Climate and Wellbeing Education Cohort.

## Faculty representation in Survey Respondents



## Barriers to developing OERs

Although this was not a question in the survey, we learned from informal conversations with faculty members that barriers were mostly related to:

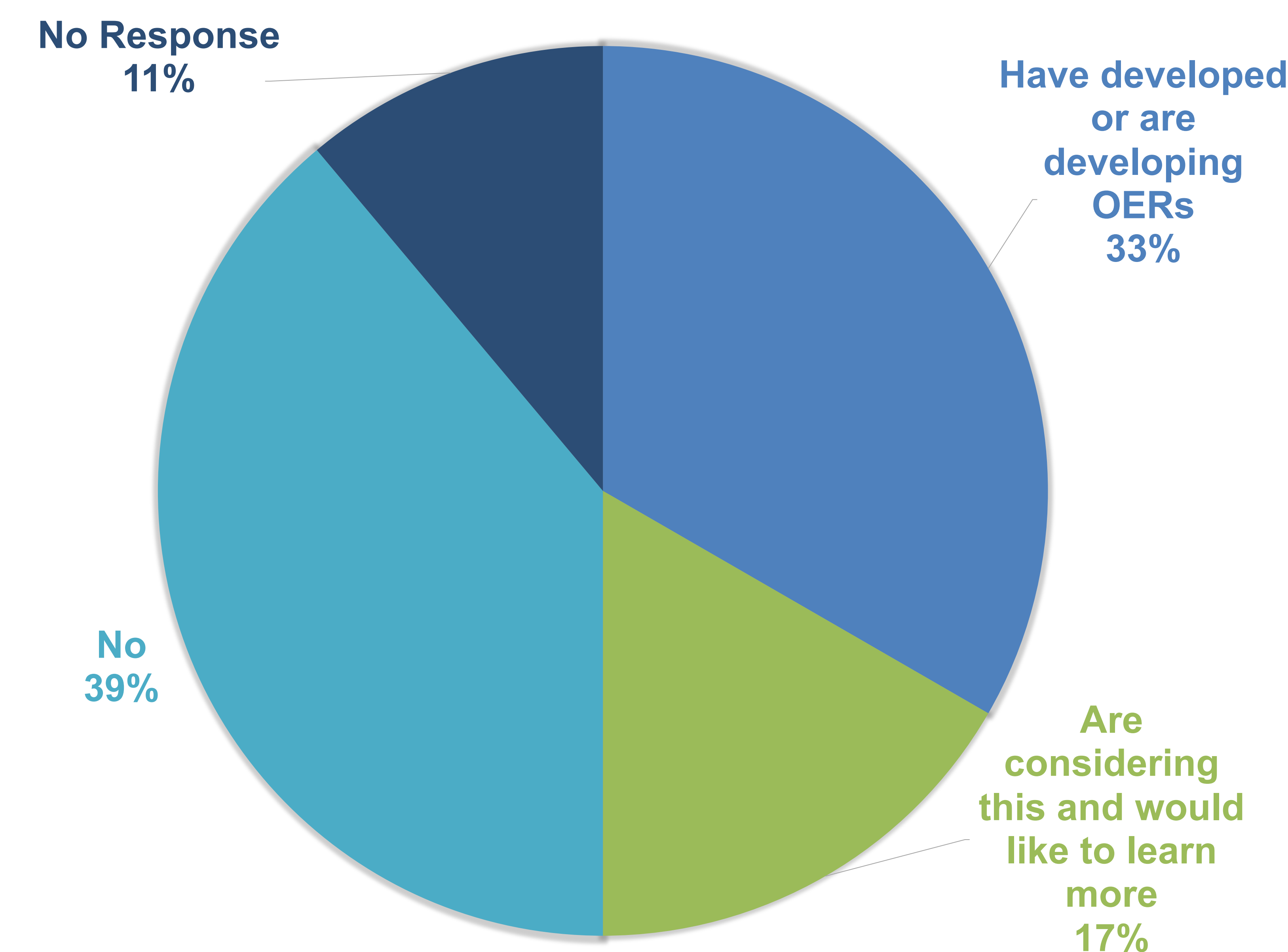
- Capacity (time and funding)
- Low awareness of what OERs are, their benefits to faculty and students, and how to get started in developing them.

In response to that we have started to reach out to our networks on a consistent basis to raise awareness about the concept and value of OERs and about the funding opportunities that are available through CTLT's OER Fund.

## Initial Survey Results

18 faculty responded out of 71 contacted.

### Did You Create Any Open Educational Resources During Or After The Grant Period From This Project?



## Outcomes of this project

- Outreach to 70+ faculty to raise awareness about OERs, funding opportunities available, and learn about their experience developing OERs.
- Identified specific opportunities to support faculty in their development of OERs and learned about the constraints they face in doing this kind of work.
- Overall increased capacity and understanding of OERs at the Sustainability Hub.
- Currently working with two programs of faculty cohorts to enhance the OER component of it.

## •Acknowledgement

- We gratefully acknowledge the financial support and consultation provided by the OER Rapid Innovation Grant team.
- We are also grateful for the contribution made by Tessa Wiehr, who as an undergraduate student was hired to help collect OER data and engage with our network of faculty members.