

Director of Open Education and Learning Innovation

Colorado Department of Higher Education

POSTING DATE: August 11, 2021

CLOSING DATE: August 25, 2021

SALARY: \$70,000 - \$73,000

DESCRIPTION OF JOB

As a key member of the Student Success and Academic Affairs team, the Director of Open Education and Learning Innovation is the department's primary expert on Open Education Resources (OER) and related innovations. The position leads implementation of Senate Bill 21-215, which includes distribution of \$1,000,000 of institutional grants annually through FY2026. The position is responsible for tracking and communicating the results and impact of OER, including design of data reporting systems and authoring required legislative reports. The position also leads work on related innovations in learning, educational delivery, micro-credentialing, and verification. See <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb21-215>.

The position works with multiple internal and external stakeholders including the Open Education Resources Council, academic officers and registrars at institutions of higher education, other state agencies, the governor's office, and educators and innovators from the non-profit, tech, philanthropic, and business communities. This position also collaborates internally on data collection efforts and messaging campaigns that tell the story of open education and its benefits to students.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Lead implementation of the OER grant program and associated legislative directives in Senate Bill 21-215.
- Serve as the department liaison to the Colorado Open Education Resources Council and coordinate the council's activities.
- In collaboration with the OER Council, identify criteria for the awarding of grants, create an application submission and review process, and coordinate the distribution of funds to institutions.
- In collaboration with the OER council and other stakeholders, develop a data collection and reporting process that complies with legislation and enables assessment of the relationship of OER and zero-textbook-cost degrees to student success.
- Author required legislative reports and deliver presentations to various audiences on OER and related innovations in educational resources and instructional modalities.
- Produce an annual OER conference and coordinate other professional development and networking opportunities for educators, content creators, course developers, and instructional designers.
- Develop and manage websites for the Colorado OER Initiative, including shared and collaboratively developed communication and professional development content.
- Serve as a champion for open education and zero-textbook-cost programming as a strategy to provide more affordable, high-quality, accessible, and equitable education.
- Collaborate with internal and external partners to embed open education practices into other strategic initiatives.

- Lead exploration of other innovations in learning, education delivery, micro-credentialing and related efforts to formally recognize collections of knowledge and competencies that are integrated into the formal academic curriculum or are companion educational experiences.
- Serve as the lead advocate and liaison to institutions on alternatives for documenting student learning including competencies and micro-credentials, developing a storable and sharable comprehensive learner record, and exploring related technology platforms and applications.
- Travel frequently around the state to work with campus OER teams and individuals to help their efforts, including the identification of open education resources as alternatives to traditional textbooks and commercially-purchase resources.
- Execute other administrative duties as designated by the Chief Student Success and Academic Affairs Officer or the Senior Director for Academic Pathways and Innovation.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

Required Qualifications

- Formal education or training in the fields of education, library sciences, instructional design, public policy, or a related area
- 3-5 years' experience in higher education, public policy, other education, or a related field
- Experience in developing or managing open educational resources, other instructional resources, online delivery, or learning management systems
- Strong written and oral communication skills, including preparation of reports and presentations
- Ability to collect, organize, and analyze data and develop recommendations from research
- Attention to detail and organizational skills
- Creative and strategic thinking
- Willingness to explore and promote innovative practices in higher education

Preferred Qualifications

- Experience with state level academic policy
- Experience in grant administration or management

WORKING CONDITIONS

Works in a normal office environment with some remote working opportunities (negotiable; Colorado residency required). Does not require physical activity other than that typically utilized in such a setting, working with standard office equipment such as phone, printer, and personal computers.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

To be considered for this position, candidates must possess the minimum qualifications and submit the following: cover letter and resume. Submit completed application materials to:

HR@dhe.state.co.us

Or: Colorado Department of Higher Education
 Attention: Human Resources
 1600 N Broadway Ave, Suite 2200
 Denver, Colorado 80202

This position is not governed by the selection process of the classified personnel system and is not part of the classified personnel system.

Application Deadline: Position will remain open until filled. Application review begins immediately and position start is immediate.

Employment is contingent on successful completion of a criminal background check.

The Colorado Department of Higher Education offers benefits for this position which include medical, dental, vision, and life insurance available to the employee and eligible dependents on a cost share basis between employee and the Department. Disability insurance is provided at no cost to the employee. Paid leave time is accrued at 14 hours per month for vacation leave and 10 hours per month for sick leave. There are 10 paid holidays in a calendar year. Employees of the State of Colorado do not contribute to Social Security, but contribute to Colorado Public Employee Retirement Association (PERA)

The State of Colorado believes that equity, diversity, and inclusion drive our success, and we encourage candidates from all identities, backgrounds, and abilities to apply. The State of Colorado is an equal opportunity employer committed to building inclusive, innovative work environments with employees who reflect our communities and enthusiastically serve them. Therefore, in all aspects of the employment process, we provide employment opportunities to all qualified applicants without regard to race, color, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, medical condition related to pregnancy, creed, ancestry, national origin, marital status, genetic information, or military status (with preference given to military veterans), or any other protected status in accordance with applicable law.

The Colorado Department of Higher Education is committed to the full inclusion of all qualified individuals. As part of this commitment, our agency will assist individuals who have a disability with any reasonable accommodation requests related to employment, including completing the application process, interviewing, completing any pre-employment testing, participating in the employee selection process, and/or to perform essential job functions where the requested accommodation does not impose an undue hardship. If you have a disability and require reasonable accommodation to ensure you have a positive experience applying or interviewing for this position, please direct your inquiries to our Human Resource Director, Cindy Langan, at HR@dhe.state.co.us or call 720.264.8575.