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January 12, 2017

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645 State Office Building  
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St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Sir or Madam,

Enclosed please find (2) two hard copies of a report required by 2016 Minnesota Session Law Chapter 189, Article 1, Section 3. Copies of this report, "*Open Textbook Initiatives: Report to the Legislature*," which was sent to Senator Michelle Fischbach, Chair of the Senate Higher Education and Policy Committee, Representative Bud Nornes, Chair of the Higher Education and Career Readiness Policy and Finance Committee, Representative Gene Pelowski, DFL-Lead Higher Education and Career Readiness Policy and Finance Membership and Greg Clausen, Ranking Minority Member of the Higher Education Finance and Policy Committee.

Please contact me, Kim Lynch, [Kim.Lynch@so.mnscu.edu](mailto:Kim.Lynch@so.mnscu.edu) if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Kim Lynch, Senior System Director for Educational Innovations

c: Ron Anderson, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs  
Jaime Simonsen, Director of Legislative Communications





January 15, 2016

Academic and Student Affairs

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**OPEN TEXTBOOK INITIATIVES: REPORT  
TO LEGISLATURE  
2016-2017**

Minnesota State



MINNESOTA STATE

# OPEN TEXTBOOK INITIATIVES BY MINNESOTA STATE

## Introduction

Pursuant to 2016 Session Law, Chapter 189, Article, 1, Section 3, this report documents progress on the use of appropriated funds for Minnesota State open textbook programs and open textbook library.

## Report

Prior to 2016 legislative appropriation, Minnesota State funded two distinct initiatives: 1) open textbook faculty professional development and reviews in partnership with the Open Textbook Library/Open Textbook Network with the goal to increase faculty awareness and adoption of open textbooks and open educational resources (OERs); 2) eight open textbook campus-based projects.

### Faculty Reviews

- 124 Minnesota State faculty have completed reviews with the Open Textbook Network
- Approximately 60% who completed reviews have adopted or intend to adopt
- \$242,720 potential *ongoing* savings *per academic year* from those faculty who adopt and continue using open resources<sup>1</sup>

### Campus Based Projects

- 3 universities and 5 colleges are completing projects launched in spring 2016
- Participating campuses estimated potential student savings over \$600,000 during the first year of implementation

Legislative funding is being used to expand these efforts by involving additional faculty in professional development and reviews (November, January, and March cohorts) and extending campus access to seed grants for local initiatives. The application deadline for these campus initiatives is January 13, 2017, which allows Minnesota State to review November progress reports from 2015-16 campus projects.

In addition to legislative funding, Minnesota State continues to invest in open textbook efforts. An intra-agency agreement is being drafted to support open education coordination for one year with the potential to extend for additional time. The Open Education Coordinator will provide faculty development opportunities, manage the open textbook grants, and serve as a system wide resource for creative commons licensing and OER exploration and discovery. Additionally, the coordinator will help forward all Minnesota State OER initiatives, such as the Achieving the Dream grant received by Distance Minnesota. Over a three-year period, this grant will result in a fully online A.A. degree using all open and free resources, sometimes called a zero-cost or “z-degree.”

Between these initiatives, a conservative estimate of students’ savings in textbook costs is over \$800,000 per year.

## Minnesota State Website

Further information about the Minnesota State open textbook initiatives can be found on the Minnesota State website at <http://asa.mnscu.edu/educationalinnovations/open/>.

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<sup>1</sup> Based on 2016 College Board calculation of average textbook costs and Minnesota State average class size for two sections during an academic year.