Open Education Initiative: University of Massachusetts Amherst

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The Open Education Initiative (OEI) began in 2011 as a response to the high cost of textbooks and the burden of student debt as barriers to education and learning. The OEI faculty incentive program provides small grants to faculty for:

- the creation of new teaching materials,
- the use of library subscription materials,
- or the use of existing open (free) information resources to support our students’ learning.

It is widely considered a successful program that builds on existing infrastructure and is scalable across big and small institutions.

As of Spring 2014 it has saved students an estimated $1 million in textbook costs.

Carlos Gradil
- Initial Cost Savings: $2,400

Michele Markstein
- Biology: General Genetics
- Initial Cost Savings: $33,600

Hossein Pishro-Nik
- Introduction to Probability and Random Processes
- Initial Cost Savings: $14,630

Daiheng Ni
- Traffic Flow Theory
- Initial Cost Savings: $3,150