Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce that [NC State University has partnered with Rice University’s OpenStax](http://go.ncsu.edu/oer) as a new member of its Institutional Partner Program. OpenStax is the largest provider of no-cost Open Educational Resources (OER) in the U. S. Almost 50% of the nation’s colleges and universities have used at least one of its free textbooks in the past year, affecting over 2.2 million students.

Our participation in this initiative reflects the university’s strong commitment to supporting and enabling access to and affordability of higher education for students, a commitment that is shared by our faculty, staff, administration, Bookstores, academic support units, and student leadership. So far, initiatives and services such as the instructional technology and course redesign grants available through DELTA, the Libraries’ Textbook Lending and Alt-Textbook programs, and new forms of content access through the Bookstores have reduced the financial burden for our students significantly while sustaining and enhancing learning outcomes. Experts from across the university have also joined together to create a Textbook Affordability Team that will develop recommendations for further actions.

OER course materials are available at no cost to you and your students, and they allow you to adapt and redistribute the content with no or limited restrictions so that you can disseminate and modify the resources in ways that fit your and your student’s needs.

Many of the OER being developed today rival traditional texts in quality, meet standards for scope and sequence, and include teaching ancillaries. NC State students have already saved over $1 million as a result of the OER initiatives such as the Libraries’ Alt-Textbook program that paved the way for our OpenStax partnership. I encourage you to consider adopting them as we begin another academic year.

If you are interested in exploring OER for your courses, please read more at [go.ncsu.edu/explore-oer](https://www.lib.ncsu.edu/openstax) and reach out at **explore-oer@ncsu.edu**.