[Oer-community] Using OCW/OER as a platform

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There have already been several comments about using OER as a platform to reach educational goals in different aspects of society. We wanted to focus today's discussion on **Using OCW as a platform**. Dr Bassem Khafagy urged us to think creatively about developing a model where OER is supported/maintained as a social good, valuable to many sectors. A few interesting examples to consider:

Governmental encouragement of OER for workforce training: The US Government hosted a White House Summit on Community Colleges on Tuesday of this week (http://www.whitehouse.gov/communitycollege). During the closing remarks, the Secretary of Labor talked about two billion dollars in grants that will be available over the next four years to support job skills updating and workforce training, primarily for US community colleges, and including materials developed/released as OER.

*Community-driven OpenCourseWare development:*The town of Manor, Texas is planning to develop OpenCourseWare in open government and topics that meet needs identified by community members. To provide incentives for suggesting OCW topics, and for using OCW once developed, the town offers a certain number of "innobucks" that are granted virtually and can be exchanged for real goods and services offered by local businesses. www.manorlabs.org; conference presentation athttp://www.slideshare.net/OCWConsortium/opencourseware-meets-manorlabs

Collaborative approaches to OER: African Virtual University has an ambitious Teacher Education Program that brought together educators from 10 countries to co-create materials in a highly collaborative project. Materials created are usable and adaptable by any institution, and will soon become available to all through AVU's OER library. http://www.avu.org/Teacher-Education-Programme/teacher-education-programme.html.

Other ideas have been shared by colleagues on this list already. We would love to hear more of your thoughts on how OER and OCW can be used to meet educational goals such as lifelong learning, workforce development, curricular development, etc. What can be done now, and what might we have to do before we can realize other goals?

Mary Lou

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