ISKME's Platform and Professional Learning for the Continuous Improvement of Open Educational Resources (OER)

OER and Professional Development

ISKME offers a series of dynamic, hands-on OER trainings to provide faculty with opportunities to identify, adopt, and adapt OER content to address teaching and learning needs, and to support new and ongoing OER implementation at their campuses. Trainings are facilitated either in-person or virtually, and offered as a set or individually. The series includes the following:

- **Introduction to OER Practices:** Exploration of the what, why, and how of OER, highlighting institutional and faculty use cases involving successful adoption and implementation of OER courseware and textbooks.
- **OER Discovery and Curation:** Hands-on training aimed at supporting effective search, quality evaluation, and curation strategies to collaboratively identify, evaluate, and organize OER courses and textbooks relevant to desired use.
- **Road Mapping Strategies for OER Adoption:** Interactive workshop for faculty to design and create an OER pilot project plan and workflow for implementation and measuring its effectiveness on campus.

Overview of Our Work

The Institute for the Study of Knowledge Management in Education (ISKME) is a pioneer in knowledge sharing and educational innovation with a focus on open educational practices and deeper learning, or "learning to learn." For the past 10 years, ISKME has worked to advance OER use among partner organizations, consortia of states, schools, and higher education institutions globally through leveraging ISKME's **OER Commons** initiative (oercommons.org) and its established processes and services related to digital resource aggregation and continuous improvement of teaching and learning. OER Commons offers a comprehensive infrastructure for curriculum experts and instructors at all levels to identify high-quality Open Educational Resources (OER) and collaborate around their use, evaluation, and improvement to address the needs of teachers and learners.

Launched in 2007, OER Commons has served as an intermediary for open and freely available content providers and emerging open education practitioners at all levels. Engaging with over 400 OER content providers from around the world, ISKME supports knowledge sharing and access to teaching and learning materials, strategies, and curricula online. ISKME has established its expertise and capacity as a leading OER curator, focused on metadata enrichment and standardization, and its transportability and interoperability across systems. Additionally, ISKME is highly regarded as a thought leader in interoperability, is a launch partner for the

Learning Registry, serves on the LMRI Advisory Board, and recently collaborated on an US Department of Education's National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) contract to design accessible, cloud-based learner profiles.

OER Commons contains **Open Author**, an integrated, inclusively designed authoring and remixing environment to support the creation, adaptation, and hosting of multi-media accessible OER and to enable collaborative workflows of content reviewers and creators. The authoring environment produces OER that is accessible using a broad range of assistive technology devices such as screen readers.

ISKME facilitates **OER engagement and professional learning** so that instructors and curriculum specialists at all levels can gain the necessary skills required to identify, adapt and evaluate high quality open materials. Since 2009, ISKME has trained over 8000 teachers and curriculum specialists in 25 countries. Our trainings support instructors to develop a "commons" mindset, to experience the benefits of open collaborative processes and build a collective knowledge base. Educators learn to use digital tools and team workflow processes to address shared curricular and instructional needs.

Microsites are user-centered, easy-to-use sites that house their own resource collections and tools, can contain all the features available on the OER Commons site, and can include specially curated collections from the OER Commons database of resources. The OER Commons microsite platform supports interoperability and integration with major commercial and open source learning management systems.

Network Hubs are modularly designed, custom branded, community project pages where organizations manage their resource, collections, and groups, and share information about their community. Examples of hubs and associated collections can be found at on OER Commons at http://www.oercommons.org/hubs/.

About ISKME

ISKME (iskme.org) is a global nonprofit dedicated to collaboration and change in the education sector. Founded in 2002 by Lisa Petrides, a former professor at Columbia University, Teachers College, ISKME has been at the forefront of knowledge innovations in education. ISKME has helped to formulate and advance a research agenda for education focusing on continuous improvement, open educational resources, the use of student achievement data, the development of cultures of inquiry, and the use of knowledge for decision-making—issues that have now become common goals if not yet common practices in education. ISKME's research-based OER processes and approach to collaboration and professional learning are elements in a broad model for systemic change in education through knowledge sharing.

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