Universal Access to Educational Materials

Expand our strategies to reduce the costs of educational materials with Open Educational Resources (OER’s), electronic books and related strategies and continue to pursue collaborative strategies to ensure all Alamo Colleges’ students have Wi-Fi access (digital inclusion) both at the Alamo Colleges and at home or in their neighborhood. A community scan and student survey is recommended in order to document student’s access.

Universal Access to Educational Materials is the Alamo Colleges District’s approach to provide quality no-cost and/or low-cost instructional materials to all students available the first day of class.

AlamoOPEN is the district’s No-Cost movement, which includes the use of Open Education Resources (OER) and other free resources: institutionally funded resources, such as library databases and/or faculty original work that is used at no cost to the students. The focus for AlamoOPEN is a no-cost experience for the student.

IM Direct is our inclusive access initiative, which attaches a charge to each unique course through their course reference number for the approved instructional materials, as defined by the college’s department chair.

For 2020-2021, we continued to expand our AlamoOPEN and IM Direct brand awareness in new way during the pandemic. The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Success hosted session via Zoom to all faculty to aid in the process of each program. We continued to see an increases awareness in our downward approach by also including; schedule builders, high programs leads , and students advisors.

The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Success formed a Universal Access to Educational Materials Work Group comprised of faculty and staff from all five colleges to developing a comprehensive, overarching strategy for the UA initiative. The committee has was charged with the following:

- Develop a universal access program implementation timeline with go live Fall 2021
- Identify Universal Access Program Components/Strategy
- Develop Universal Access Strategy Implementation Process
- Support Campus Implementation of the Universal Access Strategy

AlamoOPEN and IM Direct has collectively impacted over 330,000 students in over 15,000 courses sections saving students over $21.5 million in their instructional material costs.
Course Sections – The colleges of the Alamo Colleges District have offered AOER & AIMD course sections since 2014

15,228
Cumulative usage of AlamoOPEN and WM Direct resources

Estimated Savings – Students enrolled in a course using either AOER or AIMD have saved since Fall 2014

$21,504,281
Cumulative calculation of AlamoOPEN and WM Direct resources

Data pulled from ARDIS reports, 31509967, based on DOLI/NCES estimates.