

**Affordable Learning Georgia Textbook Transformation Grants
Round 2
Summer 2015, Fall 2015, Spring 2016
Proposal Form and Narrative**

Institution Name(s)	College of Business, Clayton State University				
Team Members (Name, Title, Department, Institutions if different, and email address for each)	Lari Arjomand, Emeritus Professor, lariarjomand@clayton.edu Nikki Finlay, Associate Professor, nikkifinlay@clayton.edu Reza Kheirandish, Associate Professor, rezakheirandish@clayton.edu Gay Solomon, Lecturer, gaysolomon@clayton.edu Jesse Zinn, Assistant Professor, jessezinn@clayton.edu				
Sponsor, Title, Department, Institution	College of Business, Clayton State University				
Course Names, Course Numbers and Semesters Offered (Summer 2015, Fall 2015, or Spring 2016)	Principles of Macroeconomics, ECON 2105, Fall 2015, Spring 2016 Principles of Microeconomics, ECON 2106, Fall 2015, Spring 2016				
Average Number of Students Per Course Section	30	Number of Course Sections Affected by Implementation in Academic Year 2016	22+	Total Number of Students Affected by Implementation in Academic Year 2016	660+
Award Category (pick one)	<input type="checkbox"/> No-Cost-to-Students Learning Materials <input type="checkbox"/> OpenStax Textbooks <input type="checkbox"/> Course Pack Pilots <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transformations-at-Scale				

List the original course materials for students (including title, whether optional or required, & cost for each item)	Krugman & Wells, "Macroeconomics" (3rd edition) w/ LaunchPad, required Krugman & Wells, "Microeconomics" (3rd edition) w/ LaunchPad, required	<p style="text-align: right;">\$132.99</p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$132.99</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Total Cost: \$132.99 x 660+ = \$87,734+</p>	
Plan for Hosting Materials	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OpenStax CNX <input type="checkbox"/> D2L <input type="checkbox"/> LibGuides <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		
Projected Per Student Cost	\$0	Projected Per Student Savings (%)	100%

1. PROJECT GOALS

- Lower cost of materials for students in ECON 2105 and ECON 2106
- Maintain quality of content in the course materials.
- Improve overall student satisfaction with the courses.
- Improve retention, progression, and graduation rates.
- Inspire colleagues to emulate this project and lower material costs in other courses.

1.1 STATEMENT OF TRANSFORMATION

The transformation will involve using the free, online, peer-reviewed textbooks (*Principles of Macroeconomics* for ECON 2105 and *Principles of Microeconomics* for ECON 2106) offered through OpenStax College. Faculty teaching these courses may also use the other resources provided through OpenStax, including LearningPod, which offers a large library of free practice questions that students can access online. These materials will replace the textbooks (by Krugman and Wells) and LaunchPad (the online homework system bundled with those texts), which for each course cost \$132.99 as a bundle at the Clayton State University bookstore.

Key stakeholders in the transformation will be the students who take ECON 2105 and 2106 at Clayton State University.

The use of free materials will make it easier for our student to finance their education. Many of our students often consider going without a textbook in some of their courses in order to save money. We expect student performance to improve slightly as those students who would otherwise go without a book will be better able to keep up with the material.

Students will appreciate saving through this program. Moreover, the economics faculty members are hopeful that this program will signal to students that we are mindful of the financial hardships and sacrifices they make in order to attend university. As such, we anticipate that this program will attract students to take more economics courses at Clayton State University. This should help us to successfully offer additional courses in economics in the future.

1.2 TRANSFORMATION ACTION PLAN

The economics faculty at Clayton State have identified, reviewed, and selected the free course materials from OpenStax for adoption in all sections of ECON 2105 and 2106 starting in the Fall semester of 2015.

As the materials offered by OpenStax are similar to what is currently used in ECON 2105 and 2106, the course and syllabus instructional redesign will be minimal. Professors will at a minimum need to revise their lecture notes in order to reflect differences between the new and the old texts.

Each team member will contribute to the completion of both the mid-implementation project status report and the final project report. Gay Solomon, Nikki

Finlay, and Jesse Zinn will attend the kick-off training/implementation meeting. Jesse Zinn will participate as needed in ALG-related communications.

Clayton State is officially a “laptop campus” and students sign an agreement upon enrollment stating that they have access to a PC and the internet, so each of them should be able to access and use the materials without having to pay any additional costs.

1.3 QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE MEASURES

- The College of Business requires regular assessment reports to measure student success. To these we can add D, F, W rates and compare with prior assessment data.
- We will also survey students on qualitative factors, such as how the availability of the materials affected their performance in the course, and whether they would recommend the course(s) to another student.

1.4 TIMELINE

- February 2, 2015: Required kick-off training/implementation meeting
- August 2015: Implementation of the new material in ECON 2105 and 2106 courses.
- December 2015: Interim status report
- May 2016: Final report

1.5 BUDGET

- Lari Arjomand: \$5000
- Nikki Finlay: \$5000
- Reza Kheirandish: \$5000
- Gay Solomon: \$5000
- Jesse Zinn: \$5000
- Travel: \$800 (For Finlay, Solomon, and Zinn to attend kick-off meeting Feb. 2nd, 2015)

Total: \$25,800

1.6 SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

Our plan is to continue using these materials into the indefinite future. Economics faculty may contribute to the continued development of the materials (by suggesting revisions or contributing to the pool of homework problems, for example) in order to enhance their utility and sustainability.

1.7 REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS

A Letter of Support by Avinandan Mukherjee, Dean, College of Business, Clayton State University is included.



Letter of Support for the Affordable Learning Georgia Grant proposal

As the head of the sponsoring school, I would like to express my enthusiastic support for the application of the Economics faculty of the College of Business at Clayton State University for the Affordable Learning Georgia Textbook Transformation Grant. The proposal is to utilize this grant to replace the \$130 textbooks we currently use in our Principles of Macroeconomics (ECON 2105) and Principles of Microeconomics (ECON 2106) courses with free online texts available through OpenStax College. ECON 2015 and ECON 2106 are required courses for all students in the College of Business and more than 20 course sections of these two courses combined are offered in any academic year through Summer, Fall and Spring. As we move our ECON 2105 and ECON 2106 to Area E and we introduce a new Minor in Applied Economics, we are expecting even higher enrollment for these courses from students across the university that could surpass the projected number of course sections.

I am confident that this change will be sustainable once it is implemented through the grant. As we transition to using free, online peer-reviewed textbooks for these Economics courses, we will be conducting regular assessment to measure student feedback and success that would help us to fine-tune and improve the online support materials to accompany the online textbook. The College of Business at Clayton State University, through its responsibility for receipt and distribution of the grant funding, will ensure the sustainability plan.

I believe that the proposed transformation project will make our introductory Economics courses and, by extension, the College of Business at Clayton State University much more attractive to our students by making college much more affordable to them. I am confident that the proposal will ensure significant cost savings for our students, while ensuring high quality of the courses leading to higher student satisfaction, retention, progression and successful graduation. The team of faculty members working on this project are both capable and motivated to pursue the goals of Affordable Learning Georgia.

I sincerely hope that our College of Business is awarded this very important grant to help us execute on our long-term commitment to a successful transformation to online texts. And there can hardly be a better opportunity to make a greater impact for this Transformation-at-Scale than the proposed Economics project with the high projected number of students impacted (at least 660/year) and the significant projected cost saving (at least \$87,734). Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss this proposal in greater depth.

Sincerely,

Avinandan Mukherjee, Dean

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