

# OPEN NEBRASKA: IMPACT



The University of Nebraska at Omaha has been engaged with Open Educational Resources (OER) and first day eBook programs since 2018. These programs discount course materials over the standard retail cost of traditional textbooks, and have been proven to have a positive impact on student success and persistence to graduation. This highly collaborative program is led by Criss Library, the Digital Learning team, the Bookstore, NU ITS, and the Registrar's Office. We have generously received funding for this program from the Women Investing in Nebraska philanthropic organization, as well as the University of Nebraska Kelly Funds. A research team - Dr. Dan Hawkins (ILCI), Dr. Julie Pelton (Sociology), and Craig Finlay (Criss) - is studying the impact of Open Nebraska on student success.



*We are seeing that Open Nebraska plays a role in:*

## MAXIMIZING STUDENT AFFORDABILITY

On average, college students spend \$1200 per year on textbooks.

Since 2018-19, we have been tracking student savings through our Open Nebraska program, and as of Fall 2022, we are thrilled that UNO students have saved

# \$3.9M

*compared to traditional textbooks*

## ENHANCING STUDENT PERFORMANCE

In Summer 2021, we brought together a research team, who set out to understand how Open Nebraska was impacting student performance. One initial finding was that compared to non-OER sections, students in OER sections have

# 4%

*lower DFW rates*

## INCREASING STUDENT SUCCESS

The research team found a strong positive impact on final grades when comparing OER sections and non-OER sections. When students are in a course using OER, they are ultimately more successful in the course, earning

# 5%

*more A's compared to non OER sections*

## SUPPORTING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

It was incredibly exciting to learn that our Open Nebraska efforts have been even more impactful for part-time students, most of whom typically juggle family and work responsibilities. Part-time students in OER sections have

# 8%

*lower DFW rates than non OER sections*

## AMPLIFYING ACCESS & EQUITY

Supporting first generation college students is critical to their success. This group saw a positive difference from having access to courses using OER. When first generation students took a course using OER they earned

# 10%

*more A's compared to non OER sections*