INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

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PROJECT BACKGROUND

- General Psychology – PSYC 101 (Online)
  - Enrolls about 90 students per academic year
  - Offered every semester, summer, and winter
  - Before Spring 2017, traditional textbook used
    - Print and e-book
    - Electronic learning exercises for students (students were urged to complete them, but they were not factored into the grade)
    - Single sign-on from Blackboard to resources, but students were taken to an outside site
    - Bookstore cost: $113
      - Many students reported not purchasing the textbook due to cost
- Goals and objectives for moving to OER
  - Lower cost for students
  - Provide access to a reliable source of content
  - Provide content within Blackboard
  - Pilot for possible use in other (traditional) sections

IMPLEMENTATION

- Step 1: Reviewed OERs
  - Evaluated for accuracy
  - Considered course level
  - Evaluated supplemental resources
- Step 2: Edited OERs
  - Specifically the learning objectives (made them measurable)
- Step 3: Integrate OER in Blackboard
- Step 4: Organize content on Blackboard
  - Course was already organized
  - Had to move OER content to appropriate chapter folders
- Step 5: Inform students that they didn't have to purchase a book

IMPACT

- Enrollment
  - Spring 2017
    - 47 students enrolled in PSYC 101 Online
  - Fall 2017
    - 23 students enrolled in PSYC 101 Online

- Cost Savings
  - $113 per student

- Impacts
  - Spring 2017
    - Only 11 students completed survey
    - **Use of traditional textbook vs. OER**
      - Traditional – 45% answered 2-3 times per month
      - OER – 64% answered 2-3 times per week
    - **Quality of OER materials**
      - 100% said *same* or *better than* quality of instructional materials in other courses
    - **Overall impression of online format of instructional materials in PSYC 101**
      - 82% said they liked the online format more than traditional printed books
      - 18% said no preference
    - **Future enrollment given different instructional materials**
      - 100% would enroll in course that uses OER over course that uses traditional textbook
  - Fall 2017: awaiting results

LESSONS LEARNED

- Departmental support
- Include video tutorial on where to find the OER content

FUTURE PLANS

- Examine survey results from Fall 2017
- Pilot in one of the traditional sections (face-to-face) in the evening or the hybrid section
- Anticipate that eventually we will switch for all sections

RESOURCES

- Primary OER Resource
  - Open Stax College
    - *Psychology*
    - https://openstax.org/details/psychology/
- Other Supports
  - Dr. Fabio Chacon
    - Director of Academic Computing
    - Assistance with Blackboard Integration
  - Dr. Cheryl Blackman
    - Chair, Department of Psychology
    - Overall support for the project
  - Undergraduate Learning Assistant (ULA)
    - Peer tutor/mentor for course
    - Actually took the class online when traditional textbook was used
    - Served as an ULA for traditional course with traditional textbook
    - Served as a ULA for online course with OER
    - Therefore, able to provide valuable feedback/insight to the use of OERs

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