**WorkforceGPS**

**Transcript of Webinar**

**(Re)Using Free Online Educational Resources on the SkillsCommons.org Repository: Part I – Introduction**

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LAURA CASERTANO: Again, I want to welcome everyone to today's webinar, and I'm going to turn things right over to today's moderator, Cheryl Martin. She's the program manager for TAACCCT grants.

CHERYL MARTIN: Hi. Thanks, Laura. This is Cheryl Martin, and I'm with U.S. Department of Labor. I manage the TAACCCT grants, but that doesn't mean a lot to a bunch of you on the call who said, what is TAACCCT? We will be explaining that in just one moment, but before we do that I wanted to go through the polls that we had here. And I thought we were going to be able to leave those up for a minute, Laura. Can you put those back up for a minute because it looked to me like only about half the people had had a chance to vote on those?

It was looking to me like, in terms of – so if you haven't had a chance to vote on the polls yet, we'd love to hear from all of you. This is one of the first times that we're pushing out the good news about SkillsCommons to a much wider audience than the grantees who produce those materials, and we were very curious to see what this would look like.

So we're really delighted to see that we have somewhere around 28 to 30 percent of you from local WIBs or workforce development entities, of course a number of you from community colleges. We also have it looked to me like about half and half were folks that had TAACCCT grants versus didn't have a TAACCT grant or said, indeed, what is TAACCCT? It's a funny acronym. We'll explain it in just a moment.

The third poll that we had up there is, are you an eligible training provider under WIOA in one or more states? And it looked like about a third of you were. About a little bit more than a third are not, and 24 percent is, what's that? So we will get to that a little bit later. And then the fourth question that we had is, what best describes your experience with OER? A lot of acronyms here today; right?

So OER stands for open educational resources, and about 20 percent of you have been using OER. 40 percent of you want – would like to learn, and 40 percent or more are saying, what's OER? So great. You are all exactly the right people to be on this call today, and although I'm sure that there are plenty of other people that once you've heard about this you will want to share this with, the webinar will be recorded, as Laura said. And you can – there will be a number of ways to share the information.

So I'm going to move now to introductions, and I'm going to say that, because we have such a large number of people on the call today and so little time to cover so much, we won't be answering the questions at the end. But if you have questions as we go along, feel free to put them in the chat box there. We have a few extra folks on the call from our SkillsCommons team who are available to try to answer your questions live in there as we go along. And if you don't get your question answered today during the webinar, please feel free to send an e-mail to the e-mail address that we will scatter throughout this webinar after the call, and we will answer your questions that way.

So let me move to introductions. We have a number of people here today. As I mentioned, I'm the moderator. You'll be hearing most from Rick Lumadue who is the program manager and grantee relations person for SkillsCommons and Gerry Hanley who is the director of SkillsCommons and the PI for SkillsCommons and a lot of other things too. He has many, many hats.

In the middle we are delighted to hear from Maria Fieth, Kathy Spada, and a bonus person from Wisconsin, Sarah Kavanaugh who is the education director at the state system office there and then also Sarah Stubblefield. Sorry. We are – they're going to tell us a little bit about how they reused information from SkillsCommons. So welcome, and thank you for being presenters today. A little bit more about Rick and Gerry, if you want to know all of Gerry's other titles, but we're going to keep moving.

So for those of you who are like, what is TAACCCT, that funny acronym? Well, it stands for the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grant program, and that is a nearly $2 billion dollar investment that Congress decided to enact back in 2011. And Department of Labor has been managing implementing that in partnership with the Department of Education. The grants have already all been given out, but what we're going to hear about today is some of the very exciting things that those grantees have produced and are still producing over the next two years.

These grants went – money from these grants went to more than 60 percent of the nation's community colleges, and what they used them to do was a variety of capacity building measures to build the capacity of community colleges to serve the educational needs particularly of adult dislocated workers, so the people who might qualify for trade adjustment assistance or learners with similar needs. So you can think about it as adult dislocated workers. Of course the investments that these colleges made are going to help a lot of other students as well.

So this is a different kind of a grant program. Rather than funding the community colleges to train the participants or to pay for their training specifically, these grants were funding community colleges to develop or enhance programs of study, among other things like equipment and labs and things like that, to build their capacity.

But all of the programs of study that they developed have led to an industry-recognized credential, and these 700-plus institutions have developed a lot of curriculum and other materials with more to come over the next two years, which is what we're here to talk about today because you will find all of those products on SkillsCommons. So I'm going to turn it over to Rick Lumadue to tell you – to take it further. Rick?

RICK LUMADUE: Thank you, Cheryl. We're going to actually let Gerry speak on this first area. So, Gerry, thanks. Gerry will take over.

GERRY HANLEY: Thank you, Cheryl. Thank you, Rick. And this is just a quick overview of the agenda. As Cheryl said, we want to provide you an overview of what open education resources are, and real quick, if you think about all that curriculum that was developed by these over 700 community colleges, imagining you having free unfettered access to use that material and customize it as you want.

So we'll cover that, and that's often why you should care about it because it can save you time. It can save you money, and you can leverage the expertise of all these other TAACCCT grant grantees who worked hard to produce high-quality materials.

Then Rick is going to spend some time showing you how to navigate through the SkillsCommons website so you can find and reuse those materials that are there, and then we're going to have all current grantees who have been reusing other people's materials and give you examples about the value of the curriculum that has been created by the TAACCCT grantees.

And then finally, at the end we'll just give you an overview of some of the resources that are on the SkillsCommons website that's open 24/7, any time you want to be able to use those materials, connect with various projects, connect with communities within the TAACCCT program so you can be successful and effective in using these free available open education resources.

OK. So let's get started quick with what is OER. And so let's just begin with the first – second two words of educational resources. So these are online materials that are available for you that often relate to – they can be units of curriculum, lessons that they might be, or they can be an entire whole course, an online course, or can be curriculum for a hybrid or a face-to-face course.

There's a whole range of materials, but all these materials are available online in a library. And think of it like a public library. Anyone can go into this online library and be able to use the materials for free throughout the collection that we have available.

And the other part that's really important is just not they're free of cost, but you are free to use those materials as you wish. If you want to revise the materials – so someone put together a lesson plan about manufacturing and you would like to modify that and they uploaded a Word document and then you would like to say, you know what, I'd like to change it for my students in my class or I want to put my logo of my institution, an open educational resource gives you the freedom to do that.

So the free of cost and the free permission for you to revise it and retain it yourself and redistribute it to someone else and mix it as you want. And this is the important element of the TAACCCT program is the investment is for the investment of future use of all that curriculum, that whether you are a TAACCCT grantee, not TAACCCT grantee, you're a for-profit, you're a non-profit, all of these materials are free for you to use and reuse and revise.

And so where do you find this? And Rick is going to go through this website SkillsCommons.org – www.SkillsCommons.org. And so this is a place where you'll be able to discover and use and download the materials for you to customize as you wish so that the –

MS. MARTIN: So, Laura –

MR. HANLEY: Yeah.

MS. MARTIN: OK. We're going to pull up another poll, just a very simple question. Have you used the free online educational resources on SkillsCommons.org? Yes or no? Looks like most people on the call have not used them yet, and I just wanted to reiterate what Gerry said in answer to the question, is this only for grantees? Only TAACCCT grantees have put their material on SkillsCommons, but anybody can use them. Don't have to be a TAACCCT grantee to use those materials. So that is the answer to that question, and it looks like there's a whole bunch of people on this call who have the ability to use SkillsCommons but haven't had a chance to yet. So we're delighted that you're here today to hear more about that. Back to you.

MR. HANLEY: Great. Thank you, Cheryl.

All right. And so now, how is all this free material made available, and how do you know that you have the permission to do this? Well, there's something called a Creative Commons license, and so that's the CC, Creative Commons licensing that tells you you're welcome to use it. And all these projects that were funded by the TAACCCT program – we have all the logos around the middle there – part of the requirement of those grants is, when they produce curriculum, they had to put a Creative Commons license on this that said you can use this.

And the one requirement that you have is you have to – when you're reusing it, you have to give the professional courtesy to attribute your use of those materials to the original authors of those, and that's the BY CC, Creative Commons. BY means that it was by or you are attributing it to those people. So just like you would do in any paper you might write where you're using other people's reference materials, you, in a sense, put that reference to the originally-authored materials into your document.

And so that's how the gift of sharing these resources as open education resources enables, in a sense, recognition and credit for those people who originally authored or created those materials. And those people who originally authored and created those materials are giving you the free gift and the permission to modify them as you wish. So that's really the important requirement and really the innovation that the Department of Labor put into the TAACCCT grant is ensuring all the materials have a CC BY or Creative Commons attribution license on them.

Now, the next topic here is around SkillsCommons. SkillsCommons, again, at www.SkillsCommons.org is your online – think of it as your public library. Anyone can walk in that door and use those materials, and our agreement with Department of Labor is our first job was to, how do we make sure we capture and preserve all the excellent work that was produced by the grantees?

Then our next job was to enable the discovery and reuse. So this is in a sense the library function. So you can go in and, as Rick will show you, you can search for things, put a key term in, or you can kind of walk through the virtual stacks, browse through the library. Then the next part is, how do we ensure that all this library materials will really sustain itself? Well, the communities of practice who are using those materials, working with you in your organizations, in your institutions, partnering with you will be very important to sustain this.

And then develop those sustainability strategies. SkillsCommons is really managed by the California state university system. We're going to be here after all the grants go away, and so we will be sustaining SkillsCommons for as long as the SkillsCommons services are productive and useful for people, and that will be a very, very long time.

And now, what I'd like to do is pass it over to our number one SkillsCommons advocate, supporter for projects, and the man about town about SkillsCommons, Rick Lumadue. And Rick will be sharing his screen and will demonstrate for you how you can work and use SkillsCommons. Rick, all yours.

MS. CASERTANO: Just a quick note, if you want to see the screen share larger, if you look at the top right-hand corner of the screen sharing window, there are four arrows. If you press that, it will make it a full screen. Rick, back to you.

MR. LUMADUE: OK. Thank you. And as you'll see to in the window, on the side there is a poll. So we'd like you to just kind of identify the industry sector that really best describes what your area of interest or where you're working in, if you're in a workforce development program. So that would be helpful as well.

So here we are. We're on the SkillsCommons.org. Just type in www.SkillsCommons.org. You come to the homepage of the SkillsCommons website, and you'll see a number of different features. One of the things that we're going to look at here first is how to find things in SkillsCommons. What's the best way? If you know a little bit about your industry, field, specifically kind of what you're interested in finding, you can always just come up here in the search window and type in a key search term, and you'll get the results for that.

It will search everything in SkillsCommons, all the folks that are uploading things into SkillsCommons, all the different materials and their deliverables, whether it be a program support material like administrative type documents or it could be something related to a course, teaching content, a whole course, learning management system export. All these things will come up based on the search term that you put in and you can do a refinement of that and we'll show you that. So you can always use the search window here. Just type in a key word.

Some other neat functions are – and if you would – if you just scroll down the homepage here, you'll see there's this really cool colorful looking wheel called the industry wheel and you can just click that and it will bring it up. And then you can go around, and you'll see the wheel is organized by the NAICS code, so all the grant projects that are uploading their projects by NAICS code. So the wheel is matched to that. So you'll just kind of go around here, and you'll see the different types of areas that folks are cataloging their materials in SkillsCommons all related to workforce development.

So I'm going to click on NAICS code for information, and then I can continue to refine this search. And you'll see that it comes up with a hit list, and so this is kind of nice. So I can come in here and I can kind of start beginning to look through and just kind of get an idea of what's in here. You'll see kind of just a brief description what the title is, and this title is actually a hyperlink.

So you can click it, and it will take you to the item submission page. All right. And then it's also a little bit of context about who developed it and then a little brief description and all depending on how the grant project uploaded their material.

Another way to find material is to just come down through the browse feature, and so you can browse by a grant project. And for most people outside of TAACCCT, it's kind of difficult, but we kind of organized them there because of all the grant projects wanted to keep them together so that institutions and whatnot could be there.

But for most folks outside of TAACCCT, you'll probably either look by material type or credential type or an institution, if you're looking for a particular institution. But staying on the theme of the wheel – I mean, of the industry, we just looked at the wheel, but there's another way you can look at – browse by industry is this ADA-compliant list.

And so it's the same thing that was on the wheel. They're all by the NAICS codes, and you can just kind of scroll down until you find something that is in your sort of wheel house; right? So where is your interest? And so you can just see the list goes on and on all the way down to the end of the page here.

And just want to draw your attention to the number in parenthesis next to each of these titles. So, for example, in information there's 701 pieces of content that have been uploaded to SkillsCommons and labeled that way. And then, as you see, as you did refinements, you can see other information services in this field – in this area there's 35. So you can keep refining by the NAICS code as you go down.

So once again, we just click the hyperlink and it takes us and it provides us the hit list here. You'll see the results are there, all things in industry information. So this is everything; OK? Again, it's everything that was labeled with information or information technology is a big – was one of the major – four major areas that the grant projects created open education resources in. We had manufacturing. We had healthcare. We have a lot in healthcare and energy and information technology.

So one of the things I want to draw your attention to too is over here in this – we call this – in this gray box like an aspect window, and you can continue to do refinements here of the – of this area of information. So if you look for things that are just in information services or information data processing, you'll see here that there's 47 materials in there – in that category. Telecommunications there's three, and you just kind of go back down through and see.

And just remind you as well that material is being added daily to SkillsCommons, and we just crossed over I think it was 7400 or 7500 the other day. Getting close to 7500 I should say. So grant projects, we just finished up the second round out of four projects. So from now until 2018 grant projects will continue to upload their new material. So I encourage you, if you don't find something today, check back in a few days or a week or so, and it may be there. So that's by industry. You can sort by industry. You continue to refine the category.

Another neat way is to refine your search by material type. So if you're just looking for things in information technology, you want some online courses, you can refine it there. You can click online course. If you're looking for some syllabi, if you're looking for some recruitment and outreach materials in these areas, student support materials, whatever, and then just keep going down. You can refine by credential type, and so there's different types of degrees, the lattice or certificate that folks may be offering in information technology.

There's also a lot of stacked and latticed credential models so as students go through they can earn multiple certificates that would lead them into a different type of credential or eventually to an associate's degree. So there's a lot of neat models that came out of the TAACCCT program. So you may be interested in seeing some of those based on, again, the area that you're looking of your industry, expertise, and interest.

And then the last area down here is by institution. So if there's a certain institution that you're looking for, all the grant projects that upload have their institution in here, and so you can sort by the institution. All right. So I just want to make sure that you were able to see that. For example, I'll just kind of show you what this looks like if I click the information data processing and web hosting. So here you see this comes up now.

Now, this is refining search, and so I've got things in that area. I've come up with 47. Well, now, I just want to look for – I want to look for some online courses. So it's going to refine it even better in this area in data processing. So I can find 34 online courses in data processing and hosting, and then I can kind of go through and look and see. Well, then I want to – maybe I just want to get stuff that's in – if you want to refine it by an associate's degree, you're just looking for associate degree or certificate courses or credential. OK. So you can continue to add those to your refining of your search. All right.

So we'll go back to the slide deck, if we can, and we'll fast forward through some of these slides. Again, you'll have access to all the slides and the links for each of the pages that we look at is in the notes. So you can click on those or just copy those and paste them into your browser, the www. and then the extension will take you to those exact pages that we just shared here. And that will be true for all of the examples that we show you today. So again, just showing the refinements.

So once you get to a page or you click on one of those links that comes up in the refined search or if you did a key word search and you just want to look at a basic computer skills course, for example – maybe you entered that – just that up in the search window – it will take you to this page. It looks like this, a description page, and provides you some really helpful information that the grantees are uploading – cataloging their – this material by.

So it can be very helpful for you. What type of a material is it? So this one is an online course. Different subjects that are involved with it, what industry, occupations does it work in, developmental education, and as you go down the page you'll see other good education and instructional information and some really helpful information there to give you some better background.

And then another nice feature is that you can download the content. There's a SCORM package that they've made available. They also have a course that was configured for use in locations with no internet access. So this could actually be viewed as an offline version of this basic computer skills course, and this is one of the courses that is showcased later in here in this presentation in a few slides down.

One of our guest presenters is going to share how this course is being reused in different context. So I think that will be really exciting. So we wanted to show you a little bit of that there. And then also you can see other things here about the course, the overview document of the course, some FAQs for this course, and a quick reference guide.

Now, it's not shown on this page, but if you were to be on the page in SkillsCommons, if you scroll down the page, there's an additional public access to view the materials. And this entry has a way that you can actually click the link and go and see it in the repository that – of this grant project that uploaded it called Wisc Online.

So we'll share that a little bit later as we go down through, but I just wanted to draw your attention to this page of where you can actually just click these different files to your computer, download them. You don't have to have a SkillsCommons account to get any of these. All you have to do is just come in, just browse. It's open. As Gerry said earlier, 24/7 you can download these and take them for yourself, look at them, use them as is, and so there we go.

Now, the different types of OER reuse that we have seen grantees using, and so we wanted to kind of highlight that for you folks here just to kind of give you some ideas of how you might reuse some of the material in SkillsCommons. So, for example, one way you could reuse the material is just as it is.

So here is that basic computer skills course, a look at it in just kind of a screenshot there to the right here, as you see, of the course as it looks in the Wisc Online repository, and a lot of places – and you'll hear this in the showcase presentations in a second of how people are just reusing this course as it is, not doing any modification to it, just taking the course and using it in different context for folks. So that's pretty exciting. You don't have to do anything. You just take it and use it just like it is. And so that's one way to do OER reuse.

Another example is to do derivative reuse. So what you can do is actually take a document or this course, for example, and make a derivative. You can put your label on it for your school. You can add some things to it to customize it for your particular needs. We'll actually have an example of a derivative reuse of SkillsCommons by one of our late round grant projects, and so those documents are also available in the file share window too that gives you a little bit more background about how grantees are reusing the material in SkillsCommons.

So derivative reuse is kind of just doing some basic editing to the content, kind of putting your own branding on it, and maybe changing the sequence of things, that sort of thing and – or just maybe even reusing an administrative document that's in SkillsCommons. We had a lot of those coming in so – from folks that are reusing earlier grant projects. Instead of creating the whole thing by themselves or recreating something that's already out there, they can just reuse one and then just put their labeling on it for their needs for fulfilling their administrative duties. So encourage you to look through that as well.

So different types of OER reuse, and then we also have some showcases of OER reuse. And this is available from the homepage, if you just click on the showcases. There's also a link right from the homepage, but up here in the upper window with the menu, you can just click showcases and it will take you in. And so we'll look at the reuse showcase, and you'll see here, again, just what is OER reuse?

We have some examples in here of how the basic computer skills course was reused, how a marketing and outreach plan was reused from an earlier grant project, just to give you guys and everyone good examples of how to reuse the material. And maybe that's not even considered, and so it's really neat how different grants have taken things out of SkillsCommons and reused it for their needs.

And so it varies from a full course to a simple marketing outreach plan. So everything and everything in between to save all of us time for those of us that are busy working in workforce development programs.

So invite you to, when you have some time after this webinar, to come back to SkillsCommons. Again, it's open 24/7. Kind of come through, get some ideas, look at some of these examples of how folks are reusing OER, and make that available to you. So if you've got questions, we'll provide our e-mail address at the end, and you can check in with us and we can try to get you pointed in the right direction.

At this point I want to begin to roll out the showcases of OER reuse in experience of TAACCCT grantees that are reusing existing OER, open education resources out there. So we've got three really, really good examples, and so our first one is Maria Fieth from Colorado. She was a project director for a round two grant, and they just finished up the Consortium for Healthcare Online.

And so Maria's going to share a little bit about how they used some OpenStax textbooks to save students quite a bit of money. And she can just kind of talk that process through just for a couple of minutes, and then we'll move on to the next showcase. So, Maria, I'm going to turn it over to you, and share your story. We're really excited to hear this.

MARIA FIETH: Thanks, Rick. So in my opinion, the idea about reusing materials is one of the most significant things that's happening in higher ed today. It's opening doors for us to talents that we might not have had the ability to access before, and CHEO partnered with a group called BC Campus out of British Columbia who are considered leaders in taking textbooks and they call it adopt and adapt.

They do that through a very purposeful and intentional vetting process. Some of the SME, subject matter experts were taken from the CHEO project across eight colleges and five states, all considered to be subject experts, and others were taken from external sources. So if we didn't have enough of the experts available, then we went out and found them or BC Campus helped us do that.

So some of the areas in which they did their review work had to do with – and they used a five-point calibrated rubric, and they looked at what needed to be updated in these OpenStax textbooks that came out of the Rice University effort. And are there errors in the texts that need to be fixed? Do we see biases? Is it accurate? In addition to content review, they also looked at readability, logical sequencing. How easy is the text to navigate? Is it culturally sensitive?

So it was a comprehensive review approach, and so some of these texts are considered to be multi-semester, which means that science textbooks are some of the highest priced on the market today. And so if we are able to save students as much as $400 a book, that's a pretty significant savings in the end. They estimate that in some cases textbooks are 40 percent of the cost of community college education. So we consider that pretty significant.

And because BC Campus works in the way that they do at the skill level that they do, we had contracted only two textbooks, and they were able to provide us with a number more than that. So we felt pretty – we felt completely pleased with what came out of that piece of the project. Happy to be able to put that out for use across the world, and we know that it has been reviewed in a way that creates quality material for educational systems to use. Thanks, Rick.

MR. LUMADUE: Thanks, Maria. And just as an example, here is one of the course textbooks that this project uploaded into SkillsCommons. I believe you guys did eight; is that correct, Maria?

MS. FIETH: That is correct, and they're all in sciences. So biology, chemistry, and A&P, anatomy and physiology, and physics.

MR. LUMADUE: Great. And so this example here – again, if you download the PowerPoint, the link to this example will be in the PowerPoint notes window. And again, if you want to download the example of the showcase from the file share of the OpenStax textbook that this project did, that's available there, and you can get a bunch of more information on this and Maria's contact information. Again, you can always reach out to us at SkillsCommons if you have more questions. OK. Thanks, Maria. Go ahead.

MS. FIETH: Just one more thing, Rick. Just one more thing before I go. I wanted to mention that that will lead you – those links will lead you into the review that the SME's provided. So you can see firsthand what the SME said needed to be changed and revisited, and then there are direct links to the actual materials as well.

MR. LUMADUE: Great. Thank you. All right. We'll move on to the next one, and this is showcase of grantee's project materials for reuse. This will be highlighting the basic computer skills course that we've been looking at here throughout this presentation. And so this was uploaded by a round three project, and Kathy Spada is leading that project.

And so I've invited Kathy to kind of share a little bit of the story about that and some really exciting ways that this course is being reused. So, Kathy, take it away.

KATHY SPADA: Hi, everybody. Thanks. It's great to be here today to talk about the basic computer literacy course as an open educational resource. I'm going to start by just asking three questions to folks, and so here they are. Do you have students in need of IT skill remediation before you can enroll them in postsecondary courses or programs?

Are you a workforce development partner perhaps working in a job center where you could really use a free and open educational resource in that job center to work with students? Are you a CBO with the same kind of needs?

Are you perhaps an employer with incumbent workers who also need to brush up on computer skills? Do you work in correctional facilities? I know this is more than three questions, but do you work in correctional facilities with folks that also need to work on IT remediation?

I think if you answered yes to any of those questions, then you are really going to want to go to SkillsCommons.org and take a look at the basic computer skills course that is there. This is a full course, and it's free. It's modularized.

So you can pull down the whole course. You can choose one learning plan, two learning plans, the whole enchilada. You can repackage it, repurpose it, even rebrand it. You heard Gerry talk about that earlier. So keep some of it, toss the others, but pull down the course and take a look at it. It was developed with input from 16 colleges that are part of the Wisconsin technical college system. It was reviewed by an external subject matter expert. We've had – (inaudible) – folks in Kansas to use the course, West Virginia, Ohio. Even the university system in Georgia has asked to use the course.

So it's being pulled down and reused as is. But I think what's most exciting is, when we launched the course in January of 2016, we invited our workforce development partners to also join us for that launch, and within weeks of that launch we were flooded with requests from them to think about using and adding additional features.

One of the things that we're really interested in that basic computer skills course is they wanted to be able to track student progress. So we were able to build that in. Partners were also very interested in badges and a certificate of completion so at the end of the day someone could include that certificate of completion with their resume.

We were also asked to include a master comprehensive assessment so workforce development partners, literacy centers, veterans centers, corrections could assess where students needed additional help, and we were also asked to create an online version – you heard Rick talk about this a little earlier – so that people with limited connectivity could also access the course. So this is a resource, again, that's available on SkillsCommons.org, and I would encourage you to use it.

All the technical colleges in Wisconsin are using it in one way or another through their adult basic education courses. They're using it as an entrance to assess IT literacy the same way that we assess math and reading literacy at our colleges.

I'm going to now call on Sarah Kavanaugh who is from our Wisconsin technical college system state office who had a recent experience with the basic computer literacy skills course, and I asked her to share that story with you because I think it's pretty powerful. Sarah, are you there?

SARAH KAVANAUGH: I am. Thank you. Hi, everyone. I'm Sarah Kavanaugh. I'm an education director with Wisconsin technical college system office, and I work pretty frequently with Kathy on this grant which has been really exciting work for me. With regard to the basic skills course, recently we've just trying to think about how to get it out in the community. And excuse me. I have a terrible cold. So if I start coughing, Kathy and I already have a plan. I'm going to mute. She's going to take over. So I appreciate your patience with me today.

So here in Madison, Wisconsin there was a recent grant, a digital literacy grant from the City to three targeted underserved neighborhoods, and what the digital literacy grant did or is currently doing actually is providing free internet service to all members of particular neighborhoods. In addition to giving them internet service, they're providing them with a device to use. When I saw this article come out in the paper, I thought, wow, I wonder if there's any application we can use for this basic skills course to these neighborhoods, if they have access to it or if they have a need for it.

So I, in concert with one of the TAACCCT grant advisors here at our local college, contacted one of the neighborhoods, Kennedy Heights and just reached out to them and said, do you have any desire for free computer skills course for the members of your community? Of course they were like, yeah. Anything that's free is great.

So we went over to the neighborhood. We met with their executive director, walked them through the course and also a couple members of the community to see how it might be used to their benefit in their neighborhood. They were very excited about it, particularly since it is self-paced, that there wasn't really a competitive nature to it, if they have – I think there was 15 computer stations in their computer room. So you get a lot of people at the same time kind of just familiarizing themselves with the course.

And the reason they really wanted it is here you have folks with internet now and with a device, but they didn't really have the skills to use that device in an effective manner to do things that some of us might take for granted such as online banking or scheduling doctor's appointments or looking up their kids' educational information in Open Campus and those types of applications as well as understanding how to be secure on the internet, which is – was really important to them and there's a module as part of this course.

So we walked them through it. They were very excited about it. We're actually going to go back and – me and the other individual on the grant and kind of act as teachers to help the folks in the neighborhood skill up on how to use this course and how it might work for them. And then we're going to target the other two neighborhoods that are going to be rolling out this digital literacy grant as well.

So we're really excited about the certificate that goes along with it at the end to include in resumes or job applications and to really just get a foothold on some basic IT skills. So that was a recent example of how we're getting it out here in the community here in Madison, Wisconsin and it's being really well-received and I think it will be a great resource for a lot of communities – any community, actually, that could use it. So that was a quick story from me.

MR. LUMADUE: Great. Thank you both from Wisconsin. That's really awesome to hear that story and a great, great reuse of the materials you guys have developed.

Our third and final example, it comes from Sarah Stubblefield who is at Northwest Central College I believe in Ohio, and she's a late round four grant project. So she actually is reusing material in SkillsCommons that someone from an early round project, I believe round one and – mainly round one, to do some – to use as some administrative documents. So, Sarah, can you share your story with us, and we really appreciate you being here?

SARAH STUBBLEFIELD: All right. Yes. Thanks, Rick. And I also want to say thank you to Sarah and Kathy because I have shared and reused that basic computer course as well with both our WIBs, our – (inaudible) – offices here, and a local manufacturing firm who was struggling with bringing their operators up to speed. So it is getting used here in Ohio, and they love the course as well.

And I met Rick actually at the expert table and went to him and asked for some help finding something in SkillsCommons like this. Immediately he said, on Monday you'll have it, and he did. He e-mailed me right away. So I just want to put that little flag out there for Rick. Sorry if you get a bunch of phone calls and e-mails after this, but he is the source to go to if you have questions, and he's very responsive and great to work with.

And because I had such great success with this basic computer course, when it came time to need a marketing plan or to use a monitoring tool or to look to see how other people were framing certificates, of course I go back to SkillsCommons to look to see what I can find that's already there and maybe just tweak. And at this point I have taken those documents, and we've modified it to what we need here at Northwest State and with Rick's help I have put them back into SkillsCommons showing that we have a derivative of someone else's work.

Actually, Mo Nguyen (ph) in Missouri is who I was using to pull their information and develop some of these tools that I needed for monitoring for marketing and things like that and then put them back into the system.

So I have a lot of great experience with SkillsCommons, and I would really highly encourage anybody who has a need to go out there and check it out. And if you cannot find what you're looking for or you're starting to feel frustrated, please, please, please reach out to another either a TAACCCT grantee or to Rick himself to see what you can find and what you can do.

MR. LUMADUE: Excellent. Thanks, Sarah. Sarah's actually done quite a bit, and so those links are in the showcase of OER reuse page. So I invite you to look at that, and so again, here's the description of the content – the items that she uploaded and her reuse and giving attribution to the folks that she reused the material from creating a derivative work. So it's all really exciting.

And so we want to just kind of give a quick plug for the second webinar that we're going to do in this series on makeover reuse, which is something we haven't even touched on yet. And I know we probably presented a lot of information today that may seem overwhelming, but hopefully between now and the next presentation you'll be able to take some time to kind of digest what we've gone over and kind of look through some of the links that we provide within this presentation.

But we want to invite you to the next one in November 17th at the same time, 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. We're actually going to showcase how to take something from SkillsCommons and make it over, actually go through a whole transformation process, take simple Word documents and turn them into a learning management delivery system for an online course or an e-book, take a brochure and turn it into an interactive HTML activity, learning object. So we invite you to kind of look through kind of the gearing up for that one in a couple weeks.

But in the meantime, we want to just kind of get an idea, if you wouldn't mind, in the chat or in the side window here on this poll, and I'll just kind of keep going through the rest of the slides so we can finish up on time. But if you wouldn't mind telling us the types of OER resources you're interested in reusing, and we would like to have some of those available for the – as we go through the process of pulling things out of SkillsCommons that people are already using to create examples. So it also kind of helps us to think through strategies to help serve the folks that are out there looking for materials to reuse. So appreciate you completing this poll with us.

Again, as I said, there's a lot of information that was presented today, and how do we do this? You're one person or you're maybe a group of folks, but you've never done anything with OER reuse. SkillsCommons has created this CONNECT Center, and we've got all these great links and services that are available.

Just getting ready to get started to launch and to be of service to the greater community out there that could reuse the materials in SkillsCommons and create communities around whether it's an industry sector or it may be around a topic that you're interested in working in. And so different ideas on ways to get connected here. We've got conferences that are coming up. We've got IMPACTCommunities that we've just begun to develop.

And Maria Fieth has just joined our team within the last – what – seven, eight months, Maria, and she's done a fantastic job beginning to help us begin to start building some communities launched through SkillsCommons. And so I'm just going to invite Maria just to share just a couple minutes about the IMPACTCommunity strategy that SkillsCommons has and the – (inaudible) – that we have. So Maria?

MS. FIETH: You bet, Rick. Thanks. So in – the idea of IMPACTCommunities had been stewing in the SkillsCommons team area for some time, but we've launched our first in April of 2016. There are two communities in place right now. One is a story-telling community that thinks about how is it that we can tell the story of successes and challenges overcome in higher ed that lead to successful workforce experiences? And the second one is an industry expert-to-expert teaching.

So how is it that we bring an industry expert and put them – plop them in the classroom and provide a tool that can help them be successful at the start? So we know that adjuncts struggle, and we want to do our best to find ways to support them. These communities are problem-solving entities.

They think about on a large scale, what are the issues right now? What are the barriers to learning and to workforce, and how can we help provide some avenues out of that? So there are more communities in the works. If you're interested in participating in one of those communities or want to just find out some more information, please visit the page on the CONNECT Center around IMPACTCommunities, or you can contact me directly. Thanks, Rick.

MR. HANLEY: Great. Thanks, Maria. And so this is Gerry back again, and just to head back to the slide, one of the challenges that you're all going to face with – we have a one-hour webinar. There's so many possibilities, and I just want to come back to this CONNECT Center. This is a place for you to find the resources, the people, and the partners that we have in SkillsCommons that can work directly with you to help you reuse the materials that we have in SkillsCommons.

The first box that says the TAACCCT services, there's a whole TAACCCT Learning Network of institutions and organizations that are here to provide technical assistance to support your success. And Maria is one of the members of the SkillsCommons and we have a number as well. We have some technical experts on the SkillsCommons team. If you want some help around exporting or importing into your learning management system, we have that documented on the SkillsCommons support site as well as the experts.

Our conferences. People talk about how we could do one-on-ones. That second box there, we're at many workforce development conferences. So find us there, and we can help you. And the IMPACTCommunities that Maria just talked about, this is an important area where we're going to continue to develop. We have our social media. A number of people asked about, how do you stay in contact with what's going on in SkillsCommons? We have our social media, our Twitter, Facebook, etc. We give updates there.

And in the middle we have the industry experts by industry sector, how we can connect with those materials specific to your area. Again, a place where you can dive into and see the connections we have there, and these technology partners. And I think this is going to be a really valuable service where we have technology companies who can work with you to take the materials that are free and available for you to use from SkillsCommons and then customize it to meet your needs, whether you're in an institution or workforce development or – board or you're in an industry and you're in an HR department. All these are available for you to use.

So that's just a quick reminder of all those aspects, and coming back to the materials that were produced for a particular need in an institution may not always align with yours. And that's why we kind of developed this makeover strategy, and you might think about the TV shows where you see the old house and they give you some money and say, make it over so it looks wonderful that meets the needs of the people who are moving in.

It's the same strategy around how you can take the core of the resources, and a lot of these materials have been evaluated by subject matter experts, have been developed in partnership with industry that are partnering with those community colleges to ensure the skills and knowledge are what industry want and potential employees to have.

So working with these technology companies can really help you make over these materials very efficiently. And as Rick pointed out, the next webinar we'll begin showing you about how we have these before versions and the after versions so you can begin to imagine how you can recreate and redesign materials to meet your needs. And again, that's going to be the next webinar on November 17th.

Now, where can you meet us, and where does the TAACCCT group and SkillsCommons meet? SkillsCommons is – as I mentioned earlier, is a product of the California State University and MERLOT project. And MERLOT has been an open educational resource library for 20 years, and we work with the online learning community and consortium.

And on April 5th to the 7th we're going to have a specific TAACCCT program there. You're welcome to join us there. It's up on our website. If you go to that little conference part of our website, you can find the details. Our agenda is there, and we can provide you one-on-one support. How do you use SkillsCommons? What can you do to revise some of those things, and how do you partner with various technology companies to make that work?

And as Rick pointed out, you'll be seeing these showcases. These examples are already up there on the website in our showcase, and you can click on, as I said, the before and the after look at a Word document and then look at an interactive lesson built with SoftChalk that has embedded tests, embedded video, that has simulations to help people work through a problem.

And then the last items that we're getting to here is around open – other open education resources. SkillsCommons has many of the materials in workforce development. But if you're looking for free online textbooks, you can find over 4,000 in MERLOT across all the different areas, and we have a specific project called the California Open Online Library free and open for you where we have about 50 courses with one to seven free e-textbooks basically in the general education area.

Again, we try to provide you a One-Stop shop for all types of open education resources on the SkillsCommons website. Our job is, how do we make your life easy, simple, and give you a gift and not a burden for improving the educational opportunities for your students and enable your faculty and your workforce development trainers to be as successful as possible?

With that I'm just going to pass it back to Rick on the frequently asked questions to make sure, if you have any questions, we have all that there. So, Rick, I'll pass it back to you.

MR. LUMADUE: Thanks, Gerry. Yeah. Just real quick here we'll just go through these fast. You can see these in the presentation. Again, the links are on the slides in the notes. Again, if you need to contact us, support@skillscommons.org. Again, my information is there, and at this point I'm going to turn it back to Cheryl Martin to finish up. Cheryl?

MS. MARTIN: Thank you. Thank you, Rick and Gerry. And we didn't say this on the call but Rick Lumadue's nickname is 1-800-Rick Lumadue. So really the better way to contact him is at support@skillscommons.org. I don't know if that phone number actually works, Rick, but anyway, you can get more information by looking on the website, by contacting him there. So we're going to wrap it up here quickly.

As we mentioned before, there is a part two to this webinar. So sign up for that one, and whoops. We also wanted to let folks know that there's an opportunity to hear more about the things that are coming out of TAACCCT at the Workforce Development Institute in Newport Beach in January.

This is the AECC Conference, and there will be a TAACCCT meeting at the beginning and other great focus there on a lot of things that might be of interest to you as well. So thank you very much, and we hope to see many of you on the next webinar. Take care. Laura, back to you.

MS. CASERTANO: All right. Great.

(END)