



Otto for Education
Doug Otto
for Long Beach City College Board of Trustees

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Doug Otto Proposes Greater Adoption of Open Educational Resources for Long Beach City College

Otto's Fourth "Innovative Idea" for the Future of LBCC Would Connect Students and Educators with the Cost-Saving Benefits of the Digital Age

(Long Beach) – Long Beach City College (LBCC) Board of Trustees President Doug Otto today released the fourth "innovative idea" he has planned for the next term.

"Education is the civil rights issue of the 21st century. It is the investment that can lift individuals out of the cycle of poverty to achieve middle class lifestyles. There is nothing that can deliver a more equitable or prosperous world than higher education."

"For more than a decade, LBCC has made extraordinary progress opening the path to a college education to our young people. The Long Beach College Promise in particular has made the dream of higher education a reality to countless students. But we still have more work to do to make college affordable to students from low-income families."

"Students at LBCC may have low tuition and fees, but they still need to worry about the costs of educational materials – such as textbooks – in addition to housing, food, medical bills, and other costs of living. If they have children, which many LBCC students do, those costs are even higher, and many will be discouraged from an investment in their education with these immediate needs."

"I propose we continue to seek ways to reduce students' financial burdens starting with textbooks. A student's textbooks usually cost more than their fees and tuition. These costs are getting in the way of opportunity."

"Right now there is a global movement underway to reduce this burden by embracing Open Educational Resources (OER). Openly licensed documents and media for teaching, learning, and researching are changing the way that institutions around the world provide education."

"The United States has some well-known OER initiatives including Connexions and the MIT OpenCourseWare initiative. In California, former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger helped



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launch the California Learning Resources Network Free Digital Textbook Initiative at the high school level.”

“Traditional materials, such as textbooks, are protected under conventional copyright terms. However, alternative and more flexible licensing options have become available thanks to OER, including Creative Commons, which provides ready-made licensing agreements that are less restrictive. In addition to textbooks, these can include full courses, course materials, modules, learning objects, openly licensed videos, and other tools.”

“In my next term, I will promote OER policies that encourage the use of openly licensed content in our courses, allowing our students to save money and provide a greater incentive for them to invest in their education. In order to do so, I will convene a committee of faculty and students to take advantage of AB 798 “College Textbook Affordability Act of 2015,” signed into law by Governor Brown last October. This bill seeks to reduce costs for textbooks for college students by encouraging faculty to accelerate the adoption of lower cost, high-quality Open Educational Resources by providing incentives.”

Doug Otto is an attorney, community leader, and law professor. Serving on the Long Beach City College Board of Trustees since 2004, Doug has helped develop and implement many successful programs for the college. His leadership during tough budget times allowed LBCC to come out of the Great Recession as one of the best community colleges in California. Representing the 4th Trustee District, he lives on the East Side with his wife, Freda.

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