The Shuttleworth Foundation Commits $700,000 to Fund Lumen Learning's Work Supporting Adoption of Open Educational Resources

Momentum builds as more institutions transition to open content over commercial textbooks

PORTLAND, Oregon (April 15, 2014) – The Shuttleworth Foundation has increased its funding for Lumen Learning to a total of $700,000 in 2013-2014. Provided through the Shuttleworth Fellowship of Lumen Learning co-founder Dr. David Wiley, the non-dilutive capital will fund the company's work helping educational institutions transition high enrollment courses away from expensive commercial textbooks by replacing them with courseware comprised of freely available, high quality open educational resources (OER).

"The Shuttleworth Foundation's generous support has helped us make huge strides in developing solutions for OER adoption," said Dr. Wiley. "Lumen Learning's pilot programs have cut textbook spending by more than 90%, and student success is improving. By the end of 2014, we will support open course alternatives for the fifty highest enrollment courses at most two- and four-year institutions."

The Foundation's increased financial commitment came after reviewing the company's strong momentum. In 2013, Lumen Learning added 25 new customers and achieved total textbook cost savings for students estimated at more than $1 million since its inception in 2012. With this latest funding, Lumen Learning will focus on scaling delivery and support to meet the growing interest of academic leaders in shifting to OER-based course materials.

"Affordability and access to education remain acute problems for individuals, educational institutions and nations throughout the world," said Helen Turvey of the Shuttleworth Foundation. "As Lumen Learning expands its capacity to support more institutions making greater use of open educational resources, it is part of a tectonic shift in both thinking and action around open education. This is precisely the type of open social innovation the Foundation seeks to catalyze."

Lumen Learning works collaboratively with institutional leaders and faculty members to redesign courses using high quality open educational materials that map directly to the institution's defined learning outcomes. In Lumen-supported courses, students enjoy free digital access to all course materials from the first day of class, a factor that likely contributes to the improvements in student success measured by Lumen clients. Analytics help identify improvements in courses and content to strengthen student learning over time.

"Lumen Learning has been a critical partner to us in our ground-breaking transition to extend the benefits of open educational resources to our students and academic programs," said Dr. Daniel DeMarte, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer at Tidewater Community College, which introduced a first-of-its-kind zero textbook cost associate degree program in fall 2013. "We are pleased to see the Shuttleworth Foundation investing in this type of innovation because it clearly results in increased educational access, affordability and success for students."

About Lumen Learning

Lumen Learning provides sustained support for K-12 and higher education institutions to help them eliminate textbook costs, broaden access to educational materials, and improve student success through the effective use of open educational resources. Lumen's OER Services help institutions transition high enrollment courses to open content and provide training and support for faculty members to teach open courses and sustain the quality of these courses over time. Learn more at www.lumenlearning.com.

For More Information

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