



March 24, 2011

Greetings,

This letter is to inform you about some valuable free online resources available to your teachers, called Open Educational Resources (OER). The following links will take you to our website regarding OER and a survey to inform professional learning regarding the use of the resources at the classroom level. A \$100 gift certificate to Amazon.com will be awarded to 2 randomly selected survey responders.

** For more information about these projects visit our website at www.syntiro.org/oer

** To take the survey, please visit: <http://tinyurl.com/oerprofessionaldevelopment>

To learn more about the grants awarded to identify OER for Maine teachers read on!

The Maine Department of Education funded multiple grants through Title IID Enhancing Education through Technology - American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Competitive to identify Open Educational Resources (OER). These grants were funded with the main objectives to support the identification of OER in each of the following content areas: Health Education and Physical Education, Math, Science, Career and Education Development, World Languages, English Language Arts, Visual and Performing Arts, Career and Technical Education, and Social Studies.

OER are educational materials and resources offered freely and openly for anyone to use and, under some licenses, to re-mix, improve and redistribute. Each content team has been reviewing sites, aligning them to the MLR or to the Common Core Standards, and posting these resources for Maine teacher use.

Currently the MDOE is exploring the development of a Maine OER repository where teachers can easily access the already identified OER, identify additional high quality OER, align them to Maine learning standards, and network with other educators to collaborate and share resources, lesson plans, and strategies to support student learning.

The Survey

The results survey will be shared with the MDOE to identify and plan professional development for educators to support their understanding and use of OER in the classroom. The survey



should take no longer than 5 minutes to complete. We know that it is important to listen to the voice of educators to understand how to best meet the needs of those in the field. Your input is very important.

Thank you, if you have any questions or ideas, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



Pam Flood, Assistant Director Syntiro
floodps@yahoo.com



Kathryn Markovchick, Director Syntiro
kathrynm@maine.edu

