

MASSACHUSETTS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

# MassWorkforce Issuance

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☐ Policy

☒ Information

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**To:** Chief Elected Officials  
Workforce Development Board Chairs  
Workforce Development Board Directors  
Title I Administrators  
Career Center Directors  
Title I Fiscal Officers  
DCS Operations Managers

**cc:** WIOA State Partners

**From:** Alice Sweeney, Director  
Department of Career Services

**Date:** April 5, 2018

**Subject:** **Lowering the Cost of Course Materials with Free and Open Educational Resources - Webinar**

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**Purpose:** To notify Local Workforce Development Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and other local workforce partners of the WorkforceGPS webinar: [WIOA Wednesday: Lowering the Cost of Course Materials with Free and Open Educational Resources](#), Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 – 4:30.

**Background:** For community college students, the cost of course materials can be higher than the cost of tuition. SkillsCommons provides an Affordable Learning Solutions (AL\$) portal designed to help institutions, programs, and individuals lower the cost of their course materials. The portal is a free online library for finding, adopting, and adapting career and technical training resources, including eTextbooks for general education courses.

This webinar will show participants how to use the AL\$ portal so that they can leverage resources and strategies in the design and implementation of their own Affordable Learning Solutions program and improve student success. Participants will learn how to browse the virtual library by subject area, type of resource (e.g., eTextbook, online course, learning module), and Standard Occupational Classification code. They also will learn how to access the portal's

80+ teaching ePortfolios by faculty from a range of institutions and disciplines who have adopted free and open educational resources (OER).

This webinar is part of a series showcasing strategies and resources developed by community colleges that are of broad interest to educational institutions engaged in career-focused education and training. For more information, please visit: [Innovations Leading to Career Success Webinar Series](#).

The AL\$ portal and the many other resources available on SkillsCommons were produced by grantees of the [Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training \(TAACCCT\) program](#), a collaboration between the US Department of Labor and the US Department of Education.

An account is required to register for a WorkforceGPS event. Click [here](#) to create a free account.

**Action**

**Requested:** Please share with staff and partners as appropriate.