



6721 US Highway 11
Potsdam NY 13676
www.connectny.org

ConnectNY

Empowering Community Through Collaboration

Press Release

ConnectNY Joins the Open Textbook Network

October 23, 2019

POTSDAM, New York

CNY (ConnectNY), Inc. recently joined the Open Textbook Network (OTN) in order to support the development of an open educational resources initiative for member institutions. The OTN maintains the Open Textbook Library (<http://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/>) and is well known for helping organizations to advance the use of open textbooks and practices at their institutions. Their approach to the training and education of librarians, faculty, and staff is a proven success: OTN members have saved their students over 8.5 million dollars and 45% of faculty that attend an OTN workshop choose to adopt an open textbook!

OTN takes a “train-the-trainer” approach to helping institutions get OER programs up and running. CNY will ultimately have its own trainers from our member libraries to assist any institutions interested in developing OER programs on their campuses. Select individuals will attend the OTN Summer Institute in July 2020 for a week of intensive training. These leaders will bring back expertise to the CNY Community, helping to facilitate workshops with the goal of engaging faculty and empowering them to adopt OER in their courses.

An OER Steering Committee has been approved by the CNY Board of Directors; the Committee will develop the Affordable Learning Program, as well as manage the major program activities in conjunction with CNY staff. Individuals at member institutions with a passion for OER are encouraged to apply to serve at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/OERapplication>

For more information about CNY’s membership in the OTN, contact CNY Member Services Coordinator Sarah Probst (sprobst@connectny.org).

