Abstract

West Los Angeles College will implement the innovative Instructional Materials Rental Initiative (IMRI) that is uniquely poised to lead to four key outcomes: (1) significantly reduce the cost of textbooks for students enabling them to have needed, affordable course materials for all aspects of course work, (2) engage with faculty to create and implement a rental-friendly materials adoption policy, (3) develop and implement a transformative and sustainable business model for the bookstore enabling it to thrive in an ever-changing environment, and (4) add to the body of knowledge on instructional materials rentals. In doing this, there will be significant reduction in textbook costs for students, faculty will make more-informed, longer-term decisions about textbooks, and a model for sustainability will be developed that will be applied at the other eight LACCD bookstores and be available for adoption, in full or part, at other colleges across California and the Nation.

Evaluation of IMRI will reveal that (1) a fully functional course materials rental program is established by the end of the grant period, (2) the rental program saves students significant sums of money, (3) faculty will develop an enhanced understanding of the course material needs of students, (4) IMRI is an effective methodology, (5) sister colleges in the Los Angeles Community College District learn from and adopt/modify IMRI for their emerging rental programs, and (6) IMRI is sustainable when the federal funding is no longer available.