## Planting Seeds Together

Our experience cultivating the UNC System's Open Pedagogy Incubator

### Our Agenda

- 1. Welcome
- 2. Introductions
- 3. Why this group
- 4. What is the Open Pedagogy Incubator (OPI)?
- 5. Our Approach (and its evolution)
- 6. Sustainable Successes
- 7. Discussion
- 8. Wrap-up, Q&A

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### Introductions

#### Which of the following best describes your role?

Have you ever been part of a faculty learning community or other cohort-based program?

### Why this group?

- Intentionally seeking intercampus collaboration
- Evolved out of our natural professional network (coworkers, colleagues, mentorship, etc.)
- Shared commitment to the project of open education, trust between collaborators

### What is the OPI?

- Open Pedagogy Incubator (OPI), invites faculty across the UNC System to engage further with Open Education
- Goal: Teach foundations of open pedagogy, encourage faculty to utilize open-enabled practices in the classroom
- The program has changed its focus, themes and curriculum over time to meet new and emerging needs

### Timeline of Collaboration

SPRING 2020 - 2022

NC State Open Pedagogy Incubator

SPRING 2023 - 2024 UNC System Open Pedagogy Incubator/Faculty Learning Circle

SPRING 2025

UNC System Artificial Intelligence & Open Pedagogy Faculty Learning Circle

In one word, describe your experience of being part of a faculty learning community or cohort-based program? Or, what feelings arise when thinking about being a part of one?

# Our Approach: Collaborative, Journals and Technology Journal, 3(1), Community Our Approach: Collaborative, Collaborative, Community



#### Community-first

We believed from the start that open pedagogy is better when shared—our Incubator is built on connection and co-creation.



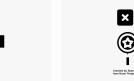
### Interdisciplinary by design

Faculty from across disciplines bring diverse perspectives, sparking new ideas and richer conversations.



#### Flexible format

Designed to work online, in-person, or hybrid—whatever fits the moment and the people.



#### Pilot, then scale

We began locally at NC State, then grew to include campuses across the UNC System.



#### Shared leadership model

A core group sustains the program, but participation is fluid—members hop in and out, and guest facilitators keep content fresh and responsive.

### How Our Approach Has Evolved We have a serious and the seriou

### From broad to focused

Began with a general exploration of open pedagogy; now dive into timely, high-impact topics such as the intersection of generative AI and open pedagogy.

### Adapting structure to meet need

One size doesn't fit all: we have a model which has been adapted to run across two semesters, condense into one, or operate as a 6-week intensive.

#### Why it matters

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Flexibility fuels sustainability: Adapting keeps the program relevant, responsive, and engaging.

Real needs drive innovation: Our model makes space for what faculty are truly facing—whether it's emerging technologies or institutional resistance to openness.

### Sustainable Successes

- Common goals faculty development and student success through open education and open pedagogy
- Bring individual strengths and initiatives from our own campuses
- Monitor and engage with a national conversation on open education

### Sustainable Successes

- Create a supportive environment
- Build community around shared interests, since many of us are solo Open Education librarians
- Outcomes are more impactful thanks to cross-institutional perspectives

What kind of support would you need to feel confident leading or joining a cohort-based faculty program?

Can you think of a challenge/question related to your area of teaching, technology, or open pedagogy that feels too big to tackle alone but could be undertaken by a cross-institutional cohort?

What skills would someone need to have to work on this challenge/question? Are they likely people with your position title, or in other university spaces?

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What are you and your professional friends interested in/especially good at thinking about when it comes to higher education? Who might benefit from your shared expertise?

# Thank You! Any Questions?

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