



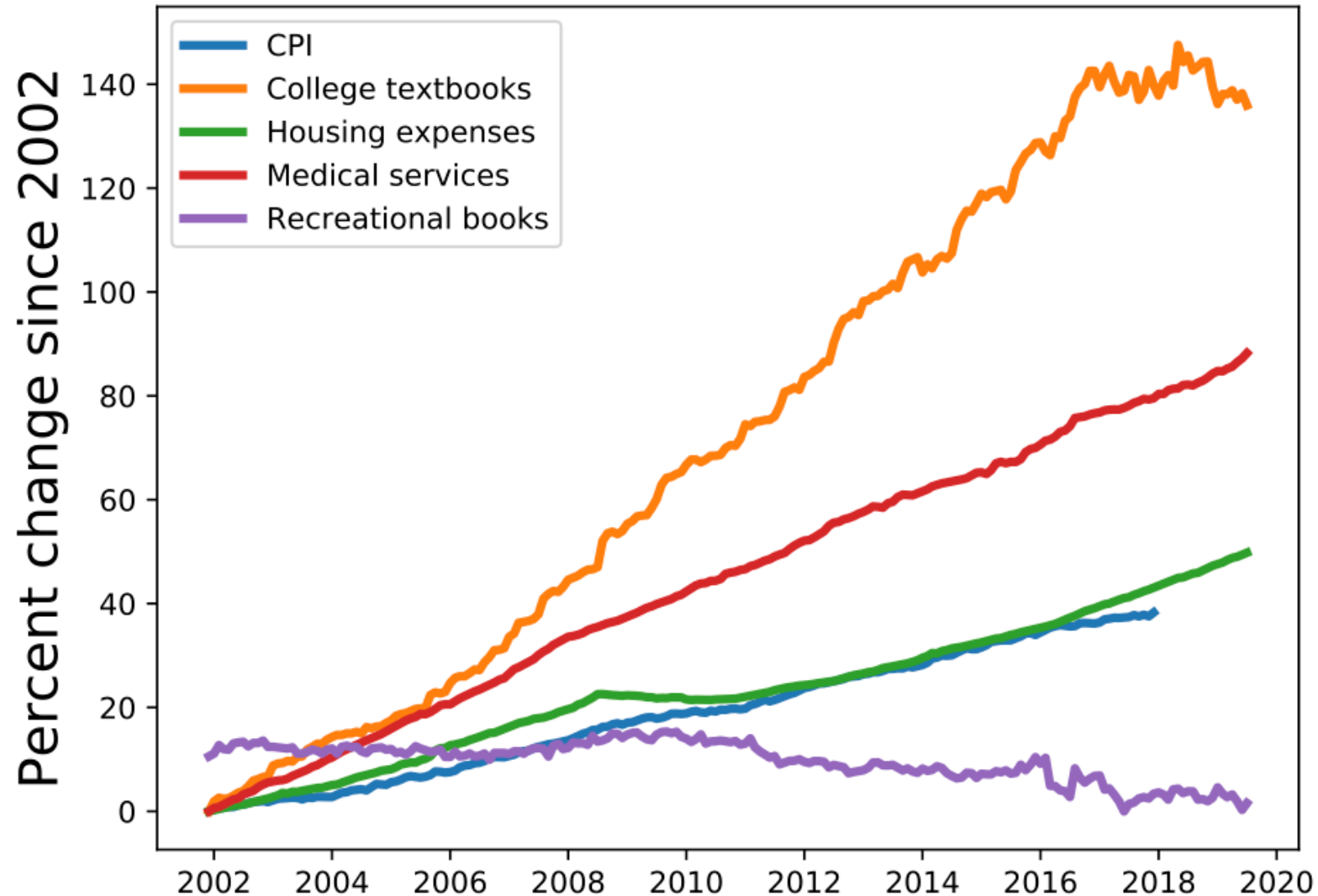
**MONTANA**  
UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

# Open Educational Resources: Supporting College Affordability in the MUS

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40% of students surveyed reported that textbooks are their biggest financial challenge....





# High textbook costs hinder student success

In your academic career, has the cost of required textbooks caused you to:

<b>64.2%</b>	Not purchase the required textbook
<b>42.8%</b>	Take fewer courses
<b>40.5%</b>	Not register for a specific course
<b>35.6%</b>	Earn a poor grade
<b>22.9%</b>	Drop a course
<b>18.1%</b>	Withdraw from a course
<b>17.2%</b>	Fail a course

Source: TRAILS survey 2019



# Open Educational Resources promote student success



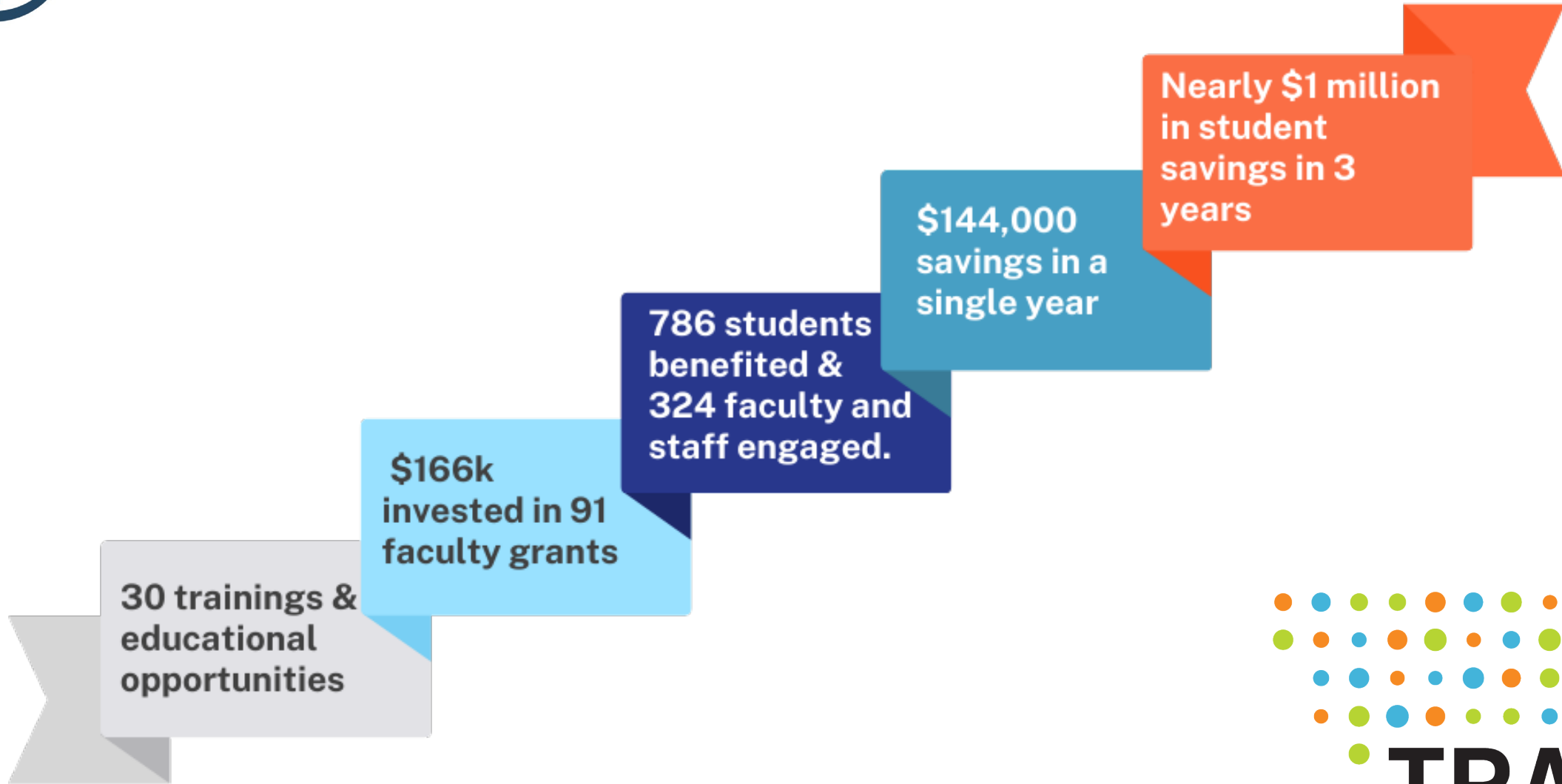
University of Georgia

Change from non-OER to OER

	$\Delta$ Grade	$\Delta$ DFW
Non-Pell eligible students	+7.4%	-2.05%
Pell eligible students	+12.3%	-4.43%
All Students	+8.6%	-2.68%



# MUS TRAILS OER Initiative



# TRAILS

Treasure State Academic Information & Library Services



# Obstacles to growth in OER

1

## **AWARENESS**

Faculty may be concerned about the quality of OER, availability of relevant OER, or may not be aware of the urgency of student financial stress. Students often don't know about OER as an option or how to advocate for textbook affordability.

2

## **ACCESS**

Expanding OER development models that grow beyond supporting OER development on an individual basis to building infrastructure that supports more faculty to adopt OER and allows more students to benefit.



# Growing Infrastructure to Support OER



## PERKINS OER FUNDING

Partnering with Perkins to provide funding to support OER adoption in Career & Technical Education fields. Targeted approach helps grow OER in high-workforce need fields where students often face affordability challenges and where OER is more likely to support better student outcomes.

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## DOE FEDERAL GRANT

Pursue federal Department of Education OER grant opportunity to fund and evaluate pilots of scalable strategies.

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## COURSE TAGGING

MUS campuses are collaborating to develop a pilot project to test no-cost/low-cost course tagging at registration. The project will help faculty to communicate which course have no or low textbook costs so students can make informed choices at course selection.



# What's possible?



## Stronger data

Stronger data infrastructure to track OER use, measure outcomes, and target growth.



## Develop OER network

Building on the MUS CCN database to share course specific OER.



## OER Innovations

Develop and pilot innovative approaches to OER growth such as Z-degree programs.



## Faculty Support

Explore options to support faculty in creating OER, such as considering OER in tenure and promotion.



## Student Advocacy

Collaborate with student leadership groups to support advocacy for textbook affordability.