Becoming an Open Education Influencer:
The Nelson Mandela University Student Advocates’ Experience of Opening Up in Collaboration
OpenEdInfluencers, or OEIs (say it out loud: *Oh-wees*), are ambassadors for Open who increase awareness of Open Educational Resources and Open Education Practices. OEIs facilitate the adoption, creation and licensing of OER. #OpenEdInfluencers energetically advocate for the use of Open Textbooks across purpose, faculties and schools. OEIs do, they don’t just say.
The #OpenEdInfluencers’ aim is to empower people (you are people) to activate their goals, by doing something about achieving it. BOEI is that vehicle. The BOEI project aims to contribute towards The Sustainable Development Goals, in whatever capacity or space, by enabling advocacy through an online empowerment course.

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere
Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning
Goal 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all
Goal 16: Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies
CLICK ON THE IMAGES TO WATCH VIDEO

About the OEI Project

Media Collaboration

Traditional vs Open Textbooks
Recruitment
Road to being an OpenEdInfluencer (OEI)

• Recruitment (Kelly)
  • Applied for a Writing Respondent position but stepped into OEI position
  • Team of 3 first called Open Ambassadors
  • “First Open Ambassadors in Africa”
  • Later we became OEIs when brainstorming a name for the BOEI course
Road to being an OpenEdInfluencer (OEI)

- **Recruitment (Mlungisi)**
  - Was spotted from FYS Mentorship Program (H2B) and presented with an opportunity to become an OEI
  - From Zero-knowledge of Open to the BOEI creation team
  - Great support and training from the team
The 2018 OEI team

From left to right: Sumaya Daffala; Kirsty Meyer; Kelly Liberty; and Gino Fransman (Project Leader)
From left to right: Kelly Liberty; Nomawethu Matyobeni; and Gino Fransman (Project Leader)
The 2020 OEI team two additional members

Mlungisi Mhlongo

Ntemesha Maseka
Training
Road to being an OEL: Training

Reading and application

Commonwealth of Learning course – 2020 prior to lockdown

The 5R Permissions of OER

- Retain: Make and own copies
- Reuse: Use in a wide range of ways
- Revise: Adapt, modify, and improve
- Remix: Combine two or more
- Redistribute: Share with others

This image is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 license (CC BY)
Contribution to the BOEI Course

- Brainstorming
- Sourcing Open Content
- Practical Research
- Developing a Structure for the Course/Modules
- Script Writing
- Collaborating Online Both Locally and Internationally
Online Collaboration during a Global Pandemic
Online Collaboration During a Global Pandemic

- Planned BOEI timeline
  - In interrupted by lockdown

- Online collaboration with BOEI contributors

- #Madeduring lockdown media

- More script writing for Professional Speaker hired for voice overs

- Final stretch of BOEI course being completed
Challenges
Challenges Experienced with Online Collaboration (Kelly)

- MANY CONTRIBUTORS – DIFFICULT TO FOLLOW PROGRESS
- KNOWING AND UNDERSTANDING MY ROLE
- KEEPING UP WITH MEETINGS IN A HOME SETTING WITH MANY DISRUPTIONS
Challenges Experienced with Online Collaboration
(Mlungisi)

Connectivity in a rural setting

Turning home into office

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY
What made online collaboration easier:

- Support from the team
- Home was a more comfortable environment for filming
- Support from family who helped with the filming process
The Video Practice for the Project: Becoming an OpenEdInfluencer

The objective is to produce professional quality videos for all team members, that are unable to do so themselves because of not having video professionals to assist them. These videos will be placed online for on-demand video playback.

Following the online Zoom meeting between Nkemeha, Matilda, Gino, Sandra and myself (Phil), it was decided that we would under the circumstance of the COVID19 lockdown shoot video material for the project remotely and assemble master videos her in Port Elizabeth, using both Zoom recordings and cell phones, and video cameras, where available, to obtain consistent "across the team" high quality video material. We know that this will be difficult for those people that are not used to acquiring professional quality video, but we will assist with tips on how to do that.
What made online collaboration easier

- Changed network service provider for better network coverage
- Internet data support from our team leader, Mr. Fransman.
- Our producer, Mr. Phil, shared a document with tips on how to produce quality videos.
- Support from family who helped with the filming process – even attended some meetings with the
Other benefits of the BOEI project online collaboration

- Maximum utilisation of resources
- Resilience and dedication
- Experience in course creation
- Working with a wealth of skilled people
- Learning from everyone on the team, punctuality, navigating google docs
- Being part of BOEI an international project that will reach thousands of people
Questions?
Visit openedinfluencers.mandela.ac.za

Start making your move in Open, or advocacy, with BOEI.

Use the content.
Spread Open.
Make change real.
Becoming an Open Education Influencer [BOEI]

Project Leader/Author:
Mr Gino Fransman (Nelson Mandela University)

Project Mentor:
Dr Robert Farrow (Open University, UK)

Hub Coordinator:
Mr Igor Lesko (Open Education Global)

Project Collaborators:
Koshala Terblanche, Anne-Mart Olsen (@MandelaUni Curriculum Development), Matilda Smith.
OpenEdInfluencers @MandelaUni – Kelly Liberty, Nomawethu Matyobeni, Sumaya Daffala, Ntemesha Maseka, Kirsty Meyer, Mlungisi Mhlongo

University of Massachusetts Amherst: Sarah Hutton, Theresa Dooley, Carol Will, Annette Vadnais

ProductionHauss: the BOEI media partner in Port Elizabeth
Phil Haussler, Sandra Haussler, Malcolm Kroon

Mr Dave Jenkings, Dr Noluthando Toni, Dr Charles Sheppard, and Deputy Vice Chancellor at Nelson Mandela University, Professor Cheryl Foxcroft.

Thandolwethu Gwiba/ Emandleni Moyo for web support.

Thankful acknowledgement to the Siyaphumelela Programme funding grant, via The Kresge Foundation.
THANK YOU

Connect with us:

@openinfluencers  @openedinfluencers  @openedinfluencers
Change the World

mandela.ac.za

http://openedinfluencers.mandela.ac.za

Gino.Fransman@mandela.ac.za