Application Details

Manage Application: Textbook Transformation Grants: Round Ten

Award Cycle:	Round 10
Internal Submission Deadline:	Friday, September 29, 2017

Application Title:	334
Application ID:	001886
Submitter First Name:	Meng
Submitter Last Name:	Han
Submitter Title:	Assitant Professor
Submitter Email Address:	mhan9@kennesaw.edu
Submitter Phone Number:	4049077586
Submitter Campus Role:	Proposal Investigator (Primary or additional)
Applicant First Name:	Meng
Applicant Last Name:	Han
Co-Applicant Name(s):	Lei Li
Applicant Email Address:	mhan9@kennesaw.edu
Applicant Phone Number:	4049077586
Primary Appointment Title:	Assitant Professor
Institution Name(s):	Kennesaw State University
Submission Date:	Monday, October 2, 2017

Proposal Title:	334
Proposal Category:	No-Cost-to-Students Learning Materials
Are you using an OpenStax textbook?:	No
Final Semester of Instruction:	Fall 2018

Team Members (Name, Title, Department, Institutions if different, and email address for each):

Meng Han, Assistant Professor of Information Technology, mhan9@kennesaw.edu

Lei Li, Professor of Information Technology, lli13@kennesaw.edu

Zhigang Li, Instructional Designer & Part-Time Assistant Professor of Information Technology,

zli8@kennesaw.edu

Svetlana Peltsverger, Interim Associate Dean of the College of Computing and Software Engineering and Professor of Information Technology, speltsve@kennesaw.edu

Ming Yang, Professor of Information Technology, myang8@kennesaw.edu

Guangzhi Zheng, Associate Professor of Information Technology, gzheng@kennesaw.edu

Sponsor, (Name, Title, Department, Institution):

Department of Information Technology, Kennesaw State University

Course Names, Course Numbers and Semesters Offered:

CSE 3203 - Overview of Mobile Systems - Offered twice a year in spring & fall semesters.

IT 4323 - Data Communication and Networking - Offered three times a year in spring, summer & fall semester with multiple sections each semester.

IT 4833 - Wireless Security - Offered once a year in spring semesters.

IT 6203 - IT Design Studio - Offered twice a year in spring & fall semesters.

IT-6823 Information Security Concepts and Administration - Offered three times a year in spring, summer & fall semester with multiple sections each semester.

List the original course materials for students (including title, whether optional or required, & cost for each item):	Table "Summary of Savings with No-Cost Learning Material"
Average Number of Students per Course Section:	32
Number of Course Sections Affected by Implementation in Academic Year:	19

Average Number of Course Sections Per Semester:

Table "Student Enrollment Summary & Projection"

Course	Spring 2017	Summer 2017	Fall 2017	Total	Projected 2018 Enrollment

					Number of Sections	Total Number of students
CSE 3203	16		24	40	2	50
IT 4323	75	25	84	184	6	230
IT 4833	40			40	2	50
IT 6203	34		57	91	4	120
IT 6823	47	15	45	107	5	150
Total	**212**	**40**	**210**	**462**	**19**	**600**

Total Number of Students Affected by Implementation in Academic Year:	600
Requested Amount of Funding:	$30,000
Original per Student Cost:	$609.50
Post-Proposal Projected Student Cost:	$0.00
Projected Per Student Savings:	$609.50
Projected Total Annual Student Savings:	$74,410.50

Project Goals:

In this project, we propose to take a department-wide effort to transform the five mobile and network related courses using no-cost-to-students learning materials. This project not only aims to reduce the financial burden imposed by the high cost of textbooks but also strives to develop free and open-access learning materials that offer equivalent or better educational effectiveness than traditional textbooks.

Statement of Transformation:

As shown in the Table "Summary of Savings with No-Cost Learning Material", the textbooks used in the five proposed mobile and network related IT courses are expensive. In fact, most textbooks used in IT mobile and network courses are costly in general. In addition, due to the fast-evolving nature of the technology field, the textbooks used in the proposed courses are updated frequently, which negatively impacts their resale value. Some textbooks do not have the latest edition available in the market (e.g., IT 4833's textbook is from 2005, IT 6823 is from 2004, see Table "Summary of Savings with No-Cost Learning Material"). The goal of our transformation is to replace the textbook used in the proposed courses with no-cost-to-

students learning materials that offer equal or higher educational effectiveness.

The proposed transformation is an economic and viable solution for the following reasons:

Firstly, the mobile and network related learning materials are widely and readily available on the World Wide Web today and many of these resources are publicly accessible, free, or with an open license to use. These materials include open and free tutorials, books, videos, labs, test banks, software, and services. For example, the majority of the network protocols specifications are published as Request for Comments (RFC) by the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) and the Internet Society (ISOC), the principal technical development and standards-setting bodies for the Internet. The mobile related topics are also strongly supported by the open source communities especially from the community of Android, and many learning materials are available and open to the public. Wireless protocols such as Wi-Fi Protected Access version 2 (WPA2) are part of the IEEE 802.X group of networking protocols and their specifications are freely available on the Internet.

Secondly, Web content can better reflect the latest trends and industrial development than the traditional textbooks as technology is changing rapidly, so is the content of Web resources. Many textbooks may become outdated at the moment they are published. As a matter of fact, many faculties have to use contents from the Web as supplemental materials to the textbook. For example, IT mobile and network courses include hands-on labs where software and tools get updated frequently and the current set of textbooks are not on par with the rapid updates. Current textbooks used in the proposed courses contain links to tools or websites which may no longer be available or supported. As soon as a new version of a tool or software package is released, the instructions in a textbook become obsolete. Therefore, we need to include the latest and available open source tools to prepare hands-on labs.

Thirdly, the materials from the Web are generally more interactive. The interactive content will not only engage the students, but also improve their learning experience. For example, a student can better learn how a network protocol works through an animation or a video than a printed diagram in a textbook.

Fourthly, developing and assembling a set of learning materials ourselves allow us to better align the course contents not only with the outcomes of each course but also with the outcomes of our Information Technology program.

Lastly, our team members are well prepared for the proposed transformation. The downsides of using Web resources are that they are often disorganized, may contain inaccurate information, may be changed or deleted without notice. However, our team members are not only subject matter experts in the mobile and network fields, but also are proficient educators who on average have more than 10 years of teaching experience. We will select, organize and integrate resources from the Web and transform the information into instructional sound learning materials for the proposed courses. We also created a sustainable plan to periodically review the developed no-cost-to-student learning material. All courses in the department are reviewed every three years as part of the continuous improvement process. In addition,

several of team members successfully completed three rounds of ALG grants (round 1 award #42, round 2 #119, and round 8 #302). As part of a department effort, we had transformed 10 IT courses using no-cost-to-student learning material. Those courses were very well received by our students and saved our students more than $200,000 in textbook cost. Building on our previous success and lessons learned, we are well positioned to continue transformation efforts and further increase the cost-saving benefits to the students in our program.

The impact of our transformation efforts will be profound. By our estimates, more than 600 students will benefit from the no-cost learning material each year. The proposed project is expected to save students $74,410.50 in textbook cost each year. Because of the cost savings from not having to buy textbooks, students may be able to take a few more courses each year and graduate sooner. Having a series of mobile and network courses adopting no-cost-to-student material not only offers better and more consistent learning experience for students, but also makes our nationally renowned IT programs more affordable. As a result, we could recruit more students and produce more qualified IT professionals that the State of Georgia needs. Developing no-cost-to-student materials can help us better align course content with its learning outcomes and outcomes of our program, which will create the positive impact in terms of curriculum development. Moreover, the learning materials developed in this proposal will be made available to the public and can be easily adopted by other programs or intuitions who want to lower the cost of education to their students. Lastly, we believe that our experience gained in this transformation project could be beneficial to the academic community. We presented our previous ALG grant experience in two national educational conferences: Southern Association for Information Systems Conference (SAIS 2016) and ACM Special Interests Group in IT Education (SIGITE 2016). We also hosted a panel to discuss the not-cost-to-student learning material in SIGITE 2016 and will host another panel in the 14th Annual Open Education Conference in October 2017. Our presence in the national conferences greatly increased the academic community's awareness on no-cost-to-student learning material and stimulated intriguing discussions among our follow educators. We plan to continue doing so in IT academic society with the proposed transformation efforts. In summary, we believe the proposed project will have a positive impact on students' retention, progression, and graduation at program, department and institution level.

Transformation Action Plan:

With a coordinated effort, our team of investigators plans the following activities to transform all mobile and network related courses to completely use no-cost learning materials:

Research and identify no-cost readings for each of the learning modules in each course. The reading list includes both required readings and optional readings. All of these readings will be publicly accessible, free to use, or openly licensed.

Research and identify no-cost materials that can be shared across the courses.

Develop study guides and lecture notes for students' use to review course content and key learning points.

Adopt or develop all assignments, exercises and lab materials that are no cost to students to replace the ones in the textbooks.

Develop test banks to replace the ones in the textbooks.

Adopt open source or no-cost-to-student labware for students to gain hands-on experience.

Update the syllabus to include major resources and no-cost materials.

Re-develop the proposed courses in our learning management system, D2L Brightspace.

The responsibilities of each investigator are described in table "Investigator Responsibilities".

Table "Investigator Responsibilities"

Primary Investigator	Course	Responsibilities
Dr. Meng Han	IT 4323	Project lead; Subject matter expert and developer; instructor of record
Dr. Lei Li	IT 4833	Subject Matter Expert and developer; instructor of record
Dr. Guangzhi Zheng	CSE 3203	Subject Matter Expert and developer; instructor of record
Dr. Svetlana Peltsverger	IT 6203	Subject Matter Expert and developer; instructor of record
Dr. Ming Yang	IT 6823	Subject Matter Expert and developer; instructor of record
Dr. Zhigang Li	All Courses	Provide Instructional Design and Hosting Support.

All course design with the no-cost materials will be provided through D2L Brightspace for our students and on ALG website for the public access.

Quantitative & Qualitative Measures:	The investigators plan to assess the effectiveness of our proposal in two ways: 1) qualitatively, we will design a survey and gather inputs from the students after they used the no-cost learning material; 2) quantitatively, we will compare students' performance data gathered from sections using traditional textbooks and sections using no-cost learning material. The investigators will collect student performance data such as pass rates on the five proposed courses between fall 2016 and summer 2017. This data will be used as a baseline for comparison of student performance in courses with alternative no cost material. The detailed assessment plan is shown in table "Assessment Plan".For each of the measurement, the investigators are going to conduct two levels of analysis:1. Comparing them to the preset goals. Generally, 75% is the aimed passing rate in undergraduate courses and 80% in graduate courses.2. Comparing them to those from past offerings where costly textbooks were used. The investigators will obtain the data from the sections taught in the past 2 years.Table "Assessment Plan"

Timeline:

The major milestones of the proposal are illustrated in table "Major Milestone".

Table "Major Milestone"

Milestone dates	Milestone
10/01/2017	Complete baseline gathering of statistics
11/30/2017	Complete course level materials redesign, which includes quizzes, tests, and syllabus for IT 4833. Complete course modules schedule to use the no-cost materials for CSE 3203, IT 4323, IT 6203, and IT 6823.

12/31/2017	Complete project progress report for IT 4833. Complete course modules redesign materials outline for CSE 3203, IT 4323, IT 6203, and IT 6823.
03/01/2018	Complete the development of no cost materials include all reading, lecture notes, video clips, exercises, labs, and assignments materials for CSE 3203, IT 4323, IT 6203, and IT 6823. The changes are reflected in the learning module study guides.
04/01/2018	Complete course level materials redesign materials for CSE 3203, IT 4323, IT 6203, and IT 6823 including quizzes, tests, and syllabus.
05/05/2018	Complete the course offering for IT 4833. Complete the survey data collection for IT 4833. Complete student evaluation for IT 4833.
05/20/2018	Complete assessment data collection and analysis for IT 4833. Deliver the status report for IT 4833. Compile final report for IT 4833.
06/20/2018	Based on the feedback of IT 4833, further adjust the development of CSE 3203, IT 4323, IT 6203, and IT 6823 including all reading, lecture notes, video clips, exercises, labs, and assignments materials, quizzes, tests, and syllabus.
08/01/2018	Develop a survey on the effectiveness of the no-cost materials for course CSE 3203, IT 4323, IT 6203, and IT 6823.

12/05/2018	Complete the course offering for CSE 3203, IT 4323, IT 6203, and IT 6823. Complete the survey data collection for all offered courses. Complete student evaluation for all offered courses.
12/15/2018	Complete assessment data collection and analysis for the whole project. Deliver the final status report. Compile final report.

Budget:

Funding will compensate team member's work and activity beyond normal teaching load or other job responsibilities. For each proposed course, course architects will spend approximately 80 hours to develop the no-cost learning material. The instructor of records will spend 20 hours in course assessment. Instructional support will include at least about 50 hours to assist course architects. The role for each PI and the corresponding compensation are listed as follows:

Table "Budget for Investigators Compensation"

Team Member	Role	Investigators compensation
Dr. Meng Han	IT 4323 developer & instructor	$5,000
Dr. Lei Li	IT 4833 developer & instructor	$5,000
Dr. Guangzhi Zheng	CSE 3203 developer & instructor	$5,000
Dr. Svetlana Peltsverger	IT 6203 developer & instructor	$5,000
Dr. Ming Yang	IT 6823 developer & instructor	$5,000
Dr. Zhigang Li	All courses support	$3,000

Investigators compensation: $5000*5 + 3,000 = $28,000

Travel & Other Expense: $2,000

$800 is budgeted for two team members to attend the Kickoff Meeting at Middle Georgia State University in Macon, GA.
An additional $1200 is budgeted for one team member to attend the ACM Special Interests Group in IT Education (SIGITE 2018).

Total Budget: $30,000

Only open source software or free software will be used in this project thus there is no additional spending on software or equipment purchasing.

Sustainability Plan:

The IT department implements a course architect system for all courses. Each course is assigned to a faculty as the course architect who is responsible for the content of the course and teaches the course regularly. All of our investigators except the instructional designer is a course architecture for the corresponding courses (please see table "Investigator Responsibilities"). Our team members will develop the no-cost-to-student learning material for the proposed courses and teach the courses for the first time using the new material. As a course architect, our team members will also make sure a course is continuously taught using the developed no-cost learning material in the future semesters even the course might have a different instructor.

The IT department also has a well-established continuous course improvement plan. Each course is assessed each semester after being taught, and a course will be formally evaluated and updated every three years. A course architect is in charge of those assessment efforts. Thus, we are committed to continuously update the no-cost learning material in the proposed courses based on research, assessment results and feedback from students and alumni. As shown in their support letters, our transformation efforts also have strong support from our department chair and the dean of our college which further ensure the sustainability of our transformation efforts.
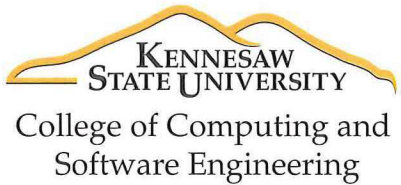
September 27, 2017

Dear Affordable Learning Georgia (ALG) Grant Reviewers,

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of the proposal, "Connecting the World: Developing No-Cost-to-Student Learning Materials for Mobile and Network Related Information Technology Courses", submitted by Dr. Meng Han, Dr. Lei Li, Dr. Svetlana Peltsverger, Dr. Ming Yang, Dr. Guangzhi Zheng, and Dr. Zhigang Li from our Information Technology (IT) Department at Kennesaw State University.

In this project, the primary investigators will work as a team to replace existing, costly textbooks in five mobile and network-related information technology courses with no-cost-to-students learning materials. Their efforts will significantly lower the cost of education for students and generate a positive impact on the retention, progression, and graduation for the College of Computing and Software Engineering. Additionally, given the rapid change of the IT field, having digital materials available to students will improve the ability to keep them updated with the latest advances in the field of mobile and network technology.

Several of the team members successfully completed three rounds of ALG grants (round 1 award #42, round 2 #119, and round 8 #302), thus the quality and success of this new project is highly likely. The investigators in this project are also designated course architects who are responsible for the development and the maintenance of the to-be-transformed courses. The no-cost-to-student's materials developed will be distributed using the course management system, Desire2Learn Brightspace. Thus, I believe the effort of this project will be sustainable over the long term and benefit students throughout Georgia.

This proposal has the support of the College of Computing and Software Engineering.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jon A. Preston
Interim Dean
College of Computing and Software Engineering
Kennesaw State University

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College of Computing and
Software Engineering

September 27, 2017
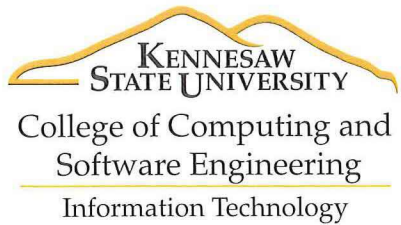
Information Technology

ALG Grant Committee University System of GA
Dear Colleagues:

This letter is in support of the Proposal "Connecting the World: Developing No-Cost-to-Student Learning Materials for Mobile and Network Related Information Technology Courses" submitted from Kennesaw State University, Information Technology department faculty. As Department Chair for Information Technology, I clearly see the need for bringing down costs for our students. The ALG grants assist faculty to prepare no-cost courses that allow students to take courses without the monetary burden of expensive textbooks.

Several faculty in the Information Technology Department at Kennesaw State University have successfully carried out an ALG grant for web courses (round 1 #42) database courses (round 2 #119), and security courses (round 8 #302) in the curriculum. The current proposal addresses mobile and network related courses in the IT curriculum. The savings already realized from the previous ALG grant encouraged our faculty to develop this new ALG grant proposal to help our students save even more money.

I strongly support this proposal. This is a very sustainable proposal as we have a large Information Technology degree program. Many of our students take courses online as well as in-class. Creating the no-cost for the textbook version of our mobile and network courses will allow students for many years to realize savings from not buying textbooks for these courses.

This is a very solid proposal. All faculty participating in the previous ALG grants completed their courses and offered them successfully. I believe that this new ALG proposal will have the same student satisfaction and success that the previous ALG grants did. This new proposal will have an even larger monetary impact on our students than the previous grants. Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Rebecca H. Rutherfoord, Ed.D.
Interim Assistant Dean of the College of Computing & Software Engineering,
Department Chair for Information Technology, Professor of Information Technology
brutherf@kennesaw.edu

Affordable Learning Georgia Textbook Transformation Grants
Rounds Ten for Implementations beginning Fall Semester 2017
Running Through Fall Semester 2018

Proposal Form and Narrative

Submitter Name	*Meng Han*
Submitter Title	*Assistant Professor of Information Technology*
Submitter Email	*mhan9@kennesaw.edu*
Submitter Phone Number	(470) 578-3801
Submitter Campus Role	*Primary Investigator*
Applicant Name	*Meng Han* *Primary Investigator/Team Lead*
Applicant Email	*mhan9@kennesaw.edu*
Applicant Phone Number	(470) 578-3801
Primary Appointment Title	*Assistant Professor of Information Technology*
Institution Name(s)	Kennesaw State University

Team Members	Meng Han, Assistant Professor of Information Technology, mhan9@kennesaw.edu
	Lei Li, Professor of Information Technology, lli13@kennesaw.edu
	Zhigang Li, Instructional Designer & Part-Time Assistant Professor of Information Technology, zli8@kennesaw.edu
	Svetlana Peltsverger, Interim Associate Dean of the College of Computing and Software Engineering and Professor of Information Technology, speltsve@kennesaw.edu
	Ming Yang, Professor of Information Technology, myang8@kennesaw.edu
	Guangzhi Zheng, Associate Professor of Information Technology, gzheng@kennesaw.edu
Sponsor, Title, Department, Institution	*Department of Information Technology*
Proposal Title	Connecting the World: Developing No-Cost-to-Student Learning Materials for Mobile and Network Related Information Technology Courses
Course Names, Course Numbers and Semesters Offered	*CSE 3203 - Overview of Mobile Systems - Offered twice a year in spring & fall semesters.*
	IT 4323 - Data Communication and Networking - Offered three times a year in spring, summer & fall semester with multiple sections each semester.
	IT 4833 - Wireless Security - Offered once a year in spring semesters.
	IT 6203 - IT Design Studio - Offered twice a year in spring & fall semesters.
	IT 6823 Information Security Concepts and Administration - Offered three times a year in spring, summer & fall semester with multiple sections each semester.

Final Semester of Instruction	Fall 2018				
Average Number of Students Per Course Section	32	Number of Course Sections Affected by Implementation in Academic Year	19	Total Number of Students Affected by Implementation in Academic Year	600
Award Category (pick one)	☒ No-or-Low-Cost-to-Students Learning Materials ☐ OpenStax Textbooks ☐ Interactive Course-Authoring Tools and Software ☐ Specific Top 100 Undergraduate Courses				
List the original course materials for students (including title, whether optional or required, & cost for each item)	See Table 2 "Summary of Savings with No-Cost Learning Material".				
Requested Amount of Funding	$30,000				
Original Per Student Cost	$609.50				

Post-Proposal Projected Per Student Cost	$0.00
Projected Per Student Savings	$609.50
Projected Total Annual Student Savings	$74,410.50
Creation and Hosting Platforms Used	*Kennesaw State University D2L Brightspace*

Table 1. Student Enrollment Summary & Projection

Course	Spring 2017	Summer 2017	Fall 2017	Total	Projected 2018 Enrollment	
					Number of Sections	Total Number of students
CSE 3203	16		24	40	2	50
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IT 6823	47	15	45	107	5	150
Total	**212**	**40**	**210**	**462**	**19**	**600**

Table 2. Summary of Savings with No-Cost Learning Material

Course	Textbook Used	Cost per Student	Projected Enrollment	Projected Costs

CSE 3203	Introduction to Wireless and Mobile Systems Authors: Dharma P. Agrawal, Qing-An Zeng. Publisher: CL Engineering; 4th edition (January 1, 2015), ISBN-13: 978-1305087132	$184.95	50	$9,247.50
IT 4323	Data Communications and Networking, Author: Behrouz A. Forouzan. Publisher: McGraw-Hill Education; 5th edition (February 17, 2012), ISBN-13: 978-0073376226. Required.	$142.19	230	$32,703.70
IT 4833	Bulletproof Wireless Security: GSM, UMTS, 802.11, and Ad Hoc Security, Author: Praphul Chandra. Publisher: ELSEVIER 2005, ISBN: 0-7506-7746-5	$74.95	50	$3,747.50
IT 6203	• Enterprise Systems Integration: A Process-Oriented Approach, Author: Diogo R. Ferreira. Publisher: Springer; 2013 edition (December 4, 2013), ISBN 978-3-642-40796-3 $79.99 Proposed new book for fall 18	$79.99	120	$9,598.80
IT 6823	• Introduction to Computer Security, Addison Wesley, 2004. Matt Bishop, ISBN: 0-321-24744-2.	$127.42	150	$19,113.00
	Total:	$609.50	600	$74,410.50

NARRATIVE

1.1 PROJECT GOALS

In this project, we propose to take a department-wide effort to transform the five mobile and network related courses using no-cost-to-students learning material. This project not only aims to reduce the financial burden imposed by high cost of textbooks, but also strives to develop free and open-access learning materials that offer equivalent or better educational effectiveness than traditional textbooks.

1.2 STATEMENT OF TRANSFORMATION

As shown in the table 2 "Summary of Savings with No-Cost Learning Material", the textbooks used in the five proposed mobile and network related IT courses are expensive. In fact, most textbooks used in IT mobile and network courses are

costly in general. In addition, due to the fast evolving nature of the technology field, the textbooks used in the proposed courses are updated frequently, which negatively impacts their resale value. Some textbooks do not have the latest edition available in the market (e.g., IT 4833's textbook is from 2005, IT 6823 is from 2004, see Table 2 "Summary of Savings with No-Cost Learning Material"). The goal of our transformation is to replace the textbook used in the proposed courses with no-cost-to-students learning materials that offer equal or higher educational effectiveness.

The proposed transformation is an economic and viable solution for the following reasons:

Firstly, the mobile and network related learning materials are widely and readily available on the World Wide Web today and many of these resources are publicly accessible, free, or with an open license to use. These materials include open and free tutorials, books, videos, labs, test banks, software, and services. For example, the majority of the network protocols specifications are published as Request for Comments (RFC) by the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) and the Internet Society (ISOC), the principal technical development and standards-setting bodies for the Internet. The mobile related topics are also strongly supported by the open source communities especially from the community of Android, and many learning materials are available and open to the public. Wireless protocols such as Wi-Fi Protected Access version 2 (WPA2) are part of the IEEE 802.X group of networking protocols and their specifications are freely available on the Internet.

Secondly, Web content can better reflect the latest trends and industrial development than the traditional textbooks as technology is changing rapidly, so is the content of Web resources. Many textbooks may become outdated at the moment they are published. As a matter of fact, many faculties have to use contents from the Web as supplemental materials to the textbook. For example, IT mobile and network courses include hands-on labs where software and tools get updated frequently and the current set of textbooks are not on par with the rapid updates. Current textbooks used in the proposed courses contain links to tools or websites which may no longer be available or supported. As soon as a new version of a tool or software package is released, the instructions in a textbook become obsolete. Therefore, we need to include the latest and available open source tools to prepare hands-on labs.

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Fourthly, developing and assembling a set of learning materials ourselves allow us to better align the course contents not only with the outcomes of each course, but also with the outcomes of our Information Technology program.

Lastly, our team members are well prepared for the proposed transformation. The downsides of using Web resources are that they are often disorganized, may contain inaccurate information, may be changed or deleted without notices. However, our team members are not only subject matter experts in the mobile and network fields, but also are proficient educators who on average have more than 10 years of teaching

experience. We will select, organize and integrate resources from the Web and transform the information into instructional sound learning materials for the proposed courses. We also created a sustainable plan to periodically review the developed no-cost-to-student learning material. All courses in the department are reviewed every three years as part of the continuous improvement process. In addition, several of team members successfully completed three rounds of ALG grants (round 1 award #42, round 2 #119, and round 8 #302). As part of a department effort, we had transformed 10 IT courses using no-cost-to-student learning material. Those courses were very well received by our students and saved our students more than $200,000 in textbook cost. Building on our previous success and lessons learned, we are well positioned to continue transformation efforts and further increase the cost-saving benefits to the students in our program.

1.3. Impact of the Transformation

The impact of our transformation efforts will be profound. By our estimates, more than 600 students will benefit from the no-cost learning material each year. The proposed project is expected to save students $74,410.50 in textbook cost each year. Because of the cost savings from not having to buy textbooks, students may be able to take a few more courses each year and graduate sooner. Having a series of mobile and network courses adopting no-cost-to-student material not only offers better and more consistent learning experience for students, but also makes our nationally renowned IT programs more affordable. As a result, we could recruit more students and produce more qualified IT professionals that the State of Georgia needs. Developing no-cost-to-student materials can help us better align course content with its learning outcomes and outcomes of our program, which will create positive impact in term of curriculum development. Moreover, the learning materials developed in this proposal will be made available to the public and can be easily adopted by other programs or intuitions who want to lower the cost of education to their students. Lastly, we believe that our experience gained in this transformation project could be beneficial to the academic community. We presented our previous ALG grant experience in two national educational conferences: Southern Association for Information Systems Conference (SAIS 2016) and ACM Special Interests Group in IT Education (SIGITE 2016). We also hosted a panel to discuss the not-cost-to-student learning material in SIGITE 2016 and will host another panel in the 14th Annual Open Education Conference in October 2017. Our presence in the national conferences greatly increased the academic community's awareness on no-cost-to-student learning material and stimulated intriguing discussions among our follow educators. We plan to continue doing so in IT academic society with the proposed transformation efforts. In summary, we believe the proposed project will have a positive impact in students' retention, progression, and graduation at program, department and institution level.

1.4 TRANSFORMATION ACTION PLAN

With a coordinated effort, our team of investigators plan the following activities to transform all mobile and network related courses to completely use no-cost learning materials:

- Research and identify no cost readings for each of the learning modules in each course. The reading list includes both required readings and optional readings. All of these readings will be publicly accessible, free to use, or openly licensed.
- Research and identify no cost materials that can be shared across the courses.
- Develop study guides and lecture notes for students' use to review course content and key learning points.
- Adopt or develop all assignments, exercises and lab materials that are no cost to students to replace the ones in the textbooks.
- Develop test banks to replace the ones in the textbooks.
- Adopt open source or no-cost-to-student labware for students to gain hands-on experience.
- Update the syllabus to include major resources and no cost materials.
- Re-develop the proposed courses in our learning management system, D2L Brightspace.

The responsibilities of each investigator is described in table 3 "Investigator Responsibilities".

Table 3. Investigator Responsibilities

Primary Investigator	Course	Responsibilities
Dr. Meng Han	IT 4323	Project lead; Subject matter expert and developer; instructor of record
Dr. Lei Li	IT 4833	Subject Matter Expert and developer; instructor of record
Dr. Guangzhi Zheng	CSE 3203	Subject Matter Expert and developer; instructor of record
Dr. Svetlana Peltsverger	IT 6203	Subject Matter Expert and developer; instructor of record
Dr. Ming Yang	IT 6823	Subject Matter Expert and developer; instructor of record
Dr. Zhigang Li	All Courses	Provide Instructional Design and Hosting Support.

All course design with the no-cost materials will be provided through D2L Brightspace for our students and on ALG website for the public access.

1.4 QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE MEASURES

The investigators plan to assess the effectiveness of our proposal in two ways: 1) qualitatively, we will design a survey and gather inputs from the students after they used the no-cost learning material; 2) quantitatively, we will compare students' performance data gathered from sections using traditional textbooks and sections using no-cost learning material.

The investigators will collect student performance data such as pass rates on the five proposed courses between fall 2016 and summer 2017. This data will be used as a baseline for comparison of student performance in courses with alternative no cost material. The detailed assessment plan is shown in table 4. For each of the measurement, the investigators are going to conduct two levels of analysis:

1. Comparing them to the preset goals. Generally, 75% is the aimed passing rate in undergraduate courses and 80% in graduate courses.
2. Comparing them to those from past offerings where costly textbooks were used. The investigators will obtain the data from the sections taught in the past 2 years.

Table 4. Assessment Plan

Source	Description
Student performance measures	This data is from the overall class performance based on the grading of student works. Metrics include: • Class average, grades distribution, pass rate for each grading item. • Overall letter grades distribution, pass rate, withdraw rate, and fail rate. • Percentage of students meeting or exceeding learning outcomes
Specific survey on no-cost learning materials.	The survey will be distributed at the end of the semester to collect student feedback. It consists of a mixture of quantitative and qualitative measures including: • Student perception and attitude toward no cost materials • Quantitative ratings of the no cost materials used in this course • Qualitative comments and suggestions
Student evaluation of the instructor	Formal student evaluation of the instructor can also provide information about teaching effectiveness using no cost materials. This evaluation is based on standardized forms for every course.

1.5 TIMELINE

The major milestones of the proposal are illustrated in table 5.

Table 5. Major Milestone

Milestone dates	Milestone
10/01/2017	Complete baseline gathering of statistics
11/30/2017	Complete course level materials redesign, which includes quizzes, tests, and syllabus for IT 4833. Complete course modules schedule to use the no cost materials for CSE 3203, IT 4323, IT 6203, and IT 6823.
12/31/2017	Complete project progress report for IT 4833. Complete course modules redesign materials outline for CSE 3203, IT 4323, IT 6203, and IT 6823.
03/01/2018	Complete the development of no cost materials include all reading, lecture notes, video clips, exercises, labs, and assignments materials for CSE 3203, IT 4323, IT 6203, and IT 6823. The changes are reflected in the learning module study guides.
04/01/2018	Complete course level materials redesign materials for CSE 3203, IT 4323, IT 6203, and IT 6823 including quizzes, tests, and syllabus.
05/05/2018	Complete the course offering for IT 4833. Complete the survey data collection for IT 4833. Complete student evaluation for IT 4833.
05/20/2018	Complete assessment data collection and analysis for IT 4833. Deliver the status report for IT 4833. Compile final report for IT 4833.
06/20/2018	Based on the feedback of IT 4833, further adjust the development of CSE 3203, IT 4323, IT 6203, and IT 6823 including all reading, lecture notes, video clips, exercises, labs, and assignments materials, quizzes, tests, and syllabus.
08/01/2018	Develop a survey on effectiveness of the no cost materials for course CSE 3203, IT 4323, IT 6203, and IT 6823.
12/05/2018	Complete the course offering for CSE 3203, IT 4323, IT 6203, and IT 6823. Complete the survey data collection for all offered courses. Complete student evaluation for all offered courses.
12/15/2018	Complete assessment data collection and analysis for the whole project. Deliver the final status report. Compile final report.

1.6   BUDGET

Funding will compensate team member's work and activity beyond normal teaching load or other job responsibilities. For each proposed course, course architects will spend approximately 80 hours to develop the no-cost learning material. The instructor of records will spend 20 hours in course assessment. Instructional support will include at least about 50 hours to assist course architects. The role for each PI and the corresponding compensation are listed

as follows:

Table 6. Budget for Investigators Compensation

Team Member	Role	Investigators compensation
Dr. Meng Han	IT 4323 developer & instructor	$5,000
Dr. Lei Li	IT 4833 developer & instructor	$5,000
Dr. Guangzhi Zheng	CSE 3203 developer & instructor	$5,000
Dr. Svetlana Peltsverger	IT 6203 developer & instructor	$5,000
Dr. Ming Yang	IT 6823 developer & instructor	$5,000
Dr. Zhigang Li	All courses support	$3,000

Investigators compensation: $5000*5 + 3,000 = $28,000

Travel & Other Expense: $2,000
(1) $800 is budgeted for two team members to attend the Kickoff Meeting at Middle Georgia State University in Macon, GA.
(2) An additional $1200 is budgeted for one team member to attend the ACM Special Interests Group in IT Education (SIGITE 2018).
Total Budget: $30,000

Only open source software or free software will be used in this project thus there is no additional spending on software or equipment purchasing.

1.7 SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

The IT department implements a course architect system for all courses. Each course is assigned to a faculty as the course architect who is responsible for the content of the course and teaches the course regularly. All of our investigators except the instructional designer is a course architecture for the corresponding courses (please see table 3). Our team members will develop the no-cost-to-student learning material for the proposed courses and teach the courses for the first time using the new material. As a course architect, our team members will also make sure a course is continuously taught using the developed no-cost learning material in the future semesters even the course might have a different instructor.

The IT department also have well established continuous course improvement plan. Each course is assessed each semester after being taught, and a course will be formally evaluated and updated every three years. A course architect is in charge of those assessment efforts. Thus, we are committed to continuously update the no-cost learning material in the proposed courses based on research, assessment results and feedback from students and alumni. As shown in their support letters, our transformation efforts also have strong supports from our

department chair and the dean of our college which further ensure the sustainability of our transformation efforts.

1.8 REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS

Two letters of support from the Dean of College of Computing and Software Engineering and the chair of Information Technology Department are attached.