

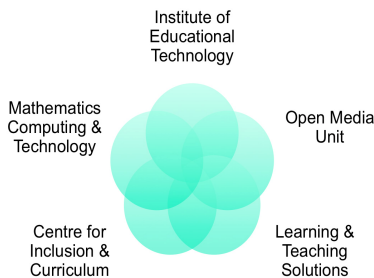
The aim of the Open Learning: Bridge to Success (B2S) project is to offer free open educational resources (OER) to increase the number and diversity of adults who wish to enrol in US colleges, pursue further qualifications and be successful in their chosen careers. A partnership between departments across the OU, two US colleges and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the project is developing and piloting “bridging” content in *mathematics* and *learning to learn* taken from the OU’s Openings Courses. B2S is one of the successful proposals in *Wave 1* of the Next Generation Learning Challenges, which is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation and The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and administered by EDUCAUSE.

Developing Course Materials

At the OU, our bridging courses (the *Openings* courses) have been shown to increase learner capability and confidence, encourage participation, result in registration in credit courses, and contribute to greater progression and completion. This content aims to allow remediation and practice, accelerate time to completion and open up pathways to skills. Through the adoption and adaptation of a number of bridging units B2S courses will be modular and enhanced with activities (pre-assessment, diagnostic activities, formative and post-assessments) to engage adults in the learning process. Course units will be presented and developed in the free, standards based

OpenLearn LabSpace which allows all users to contribute to, edit and initiate material.

The content will therefore not only be made available to targeted students in the US, but anyone browsing or searching the OU’s content throughout the world.



colleges will be established as well as an instructional toolkit for educators to use and adapt for their own purposes.

The third tier of open availability of the courses and support material allows

adoption by those with no formal connection to B2S. This final stage is an integral test in gauging whether B2S has produced successful and far-reaching OER.

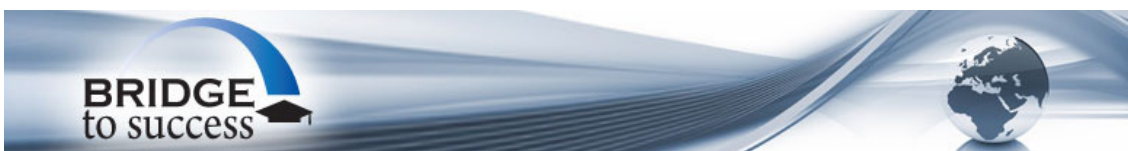


Impact

B2S is contributing to the American Graduation Initiative outlined by President Obama in 2009 which aims for all US citizens to obtain at least one year of post-secondary education or career training. The project will directly engage with a minimum of 750 prospective students (spending 180,000 person learning hours) and 100 educators during the grant period. Cross-over to other OER will increase these figures. Following initial availability and piloting of content in selected US colleges, the next phase of B2S is to roll out the scheme across the USA and to offer more subjects as ‘bridging’ content.

Piloting and Developing OL: B2S

Pilot institutions in the US are adopting B2S content as the recommended route for preparation to college placement. The piloting process will monitor, support and evaluate the impact of materials within the colleges involved. At the second tier a program offering support material, awareness and a model for adoption to other



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