**WorkforceGPS**

**Transcript of Webinar**

**Utilizing Free Online Educational Resources on the SkillsCommons.org Repository: Part II – Makeover**

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LAURA CASERTANO: So now I'm actually going to turn things right over to your moderator today, Cheryl Martin. She's a program manager for TAACCCT grants. Cheryl?

CHERYL MARTIN: Thanks, Laura. And hi; this is Cheryl Martin. Welcome to those of you who I have worked with in the TAACCCT grants.

And a special welcome to those of you that we have not. Because this webinar indeed is designed to talk to both of those audiences, but we're particularly happy to welcome people who have not been part of the TAACCCT grant process up to this point because we have this – as somebody said on our last webinar – well-kept secret and we want to get the word out about what is available to you on SkillsCommons and what you can do with it.

So I don't know how many of you – we should have asked this in a poll. We've got four polls up here. We didn't ask how many of you attended the first webinar. But if you didn't, I'll get to that in a minute. But as you can see, this is part two.

Just taking a quick look at the polls here, it looks like we've got around 40 percent of you from community colleges and another 10 percent from other educational institutions, about 23 percent from WIBs, and a smaller number from non-profits and for-profits as well. So great. That's great. Anybody who is interested in doing workforce training is – you're in the right place today.

We're looking at the poll about your relationship to TAACCCT. It looks like we have about 42 or 41 percent of folks that did work on a TAACCCT grant yourself, and 16 percent others in your organization did. Thirty-three percent or so don't have a TAACCCT grant and 10 percent say what is TAACCCT. Great. We will explain what is TAACCCT just in a moment. But again, welcome to those of you who are not direct TAACCCT grantees, as well as to those who are.

Finally, looking at – or not quite finally. The third poll is, "What describes your experience with OER?" So OER – for those of you who said, "What is OER?" – stands for online educational resources. And you'll be hearing a lot more about that today. So about a third – a little bit more than a third of you have used them already. And most of you are here because you'd like to hear how to use them; that's good, because you're in the right place. And a few of you are not as familiar with that. But basically, it's all these resources that are open source, available to you to re-use. And that's a short version of what OER is.

And finally, "What best describes your experience with the making over OER from SkillsCommons?" Most of you are here because you want to know how to do it. So again, you are in the right place. A few of you are in the process of doing it right now, so that's great.

Laura, let's pull up the slide deck now and we'll keep going because we have a lot to cover today.

So for those of you who wanted to know what TAACCCT is, or who didn't even want to ask us, just a very, very brief overview. TAACCCT is a grant program from the U.S. Department of Labor that stands for the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grant program, or TAACCCT. And it was a nearly $2 billion investment to build the capacity of community colleges to serve the educational needs of adult dislocated workers, like people who qualify for trade adjustment assistance or learners with similar needs. Of course, the investments that were made in TAACCCT may help many other types of students as well.

Rather than funding the community colleges to train participants directly, like to pay for their tuition and that kind of thing, these grants are a little bit different. In fact, they're a lot different. These grants are funding community colleges to develop or enhance programs of study, among other things. All the programs of study that the grantees develop have to lead to an industry-recognized credential.

And these 700-plus institutions who did receive TAACCCT funding have developed a lot of curriculum and other materials, with more to come over the next two years at least, which is why – which is what we're here to talk about today.

So let me say a couple things. We had – as I mentioned, this is part two of a two-part webinar series. And the other part one, which was an introduction to SkillsCommons, was held on November 3rd. And obviously, this is November 17th here. So that URL that's at the bottom of your screen right now, that one will take you to a slide – the website that shows both of these webinars. And you can get the transcripts from the first one, as well as the slides and all of that; also some handouts that we have there.

And then in a few days we will – yes, we will be posting the slides from this webinar as well as the – well, I'm sorry. The slides are already posted; you can find them in the file share box on the bottom right-hand corner of your screen right now. You'll see the makeover brochure, today's PowerPoint and a fact sheet about SkillsCommons, I believe.

So anyway, you can get all of that information there and we wanted to be sure you had that in case you didn't get a chance to see the first webinar but you're interested in that. It's more of an overview and walkthrough of SkillsCommons, as well as three different people who did some revisions to – or who built some curriculum and posted it on there, talked a little bit about what they did.

OK. So today we have myself; you have heard from me already. But our presenters are Rick Lumadue, who is the – Rick handles program management and grantee relations for the SkillsCommons website.

And let me just back up and say that – I wanted to say a few things about this – about SkillsCommons.

When DOL developed the TAACCCT grants, we required grantees to make their curriculum and other deliverables freely available. So DOL gave a cooperative agreement grant to Cal State University MERLOT to create a repository where all the TAACCCT grantees could upload their materials. That repository is found at SkillsCommons.org.

And I want to be clear from the start that everyone can use the resources on SkillsCommons, not just TAACCCT grantees. Of course, later round TAACCCT grantees use materials from earlier rounds. And right now, only TAACCCT grantees can post to SkillsCommons. But anyone at all can use the resources here. And so you're here today, you can use them, and so can your friends and neighbors. Today's – OK. And we do encourage you to share these resources with your colleagues who may find this valuable.

So going back to our presenters today, Rick is on the SkillsCommons team with Cal State MERLOT. He handles program management and grantee relations. He is also known fondly as 1-800-RICK-LUMADUE because he's just so helpful. When you contact the SkillsCommons team, it's likely that Rick is the one that you will end up talking to.

Jeff Kahn is also on the SkillsCommons team. He handles a lot of the technical aspects of the site, including LMS integration, IMS standards, and interoperable content authoring and packaging. And if you want to know more about that, you'll have to ask him.

But before we go to the agenda, if you have questions please put them in the chat box and we will answer them on the spot if we can. If we don't have time for all of them today, you can always send them to the support@skillscommons.org email address that we'll put on the – that you'll see on the last of the slides.

So with that I'm going to hand it over to Rick and we'll go to the agenda. And take it away, Rick. Thank you.

RICK LUMADUE: Thank you, Cheryl. And I'm really happy that we have so many folks in here today.

And please don't feel like you're going to miss a bunch of information if we go through the slides. We're going to do some screen sharing and all that. But I want you to know that all the things that we'll be sharing today, the links and everything, are included in the PowerPoint that's in the file share. So you'll have access to all the links and everything; they'll be in the notes section of the PowerPoint slides. So please make use of that and don't worry about where is this, where can I find this. It'll all be contained in the PowerPoint presentation.

If you have questions, feel free to ask me with the support@SkillsCommons.org if you still can't find something you were interested in.

OK. So I just wanted to make sure you were aware of that at the beginning. And also, if you're looking for more information afterwards or a webinar for your particular organization or group on makeovers and going a little bit deeper, we can set that up as well. So all that's available. So just wanted to make sure you didn't feel like if you didn't get everything today that you didn't have a chance. This is not your one and only chance; we will be here to follow up.

So just first off, why would you be interested in the makeover? You think about all the things that most folks are doing in community college and technical schools and you have programmatic needs if you're an instructor or instructional designer, if you work in the business area, like you're an employer that's doing some training. So you have programmatic needs, but what can you do to meet some of those needs? Well, we have free instructional materials, I think probably for the first time on a scale like this, for workforce development that you can take out of SkillsCommons.

And another thing is you're looking for quality material. So we'll make sure that you're aware of how to ensure the materials that you're wanting to re-use can meet the quality standards and enable people to learn the skills that they need for job-driven skills and knowledge.

And what makes all this possible – the great thing that the Department of Labor instituted with the TAACCCT grant – was to put in the CC-BY license that ensures anybody – Creative Commons (CC) BY, meaning that it has a Creative Commons license by – that means anybody can use it, re-use it, repackage it, do whatever they want with it. And that's really what's driving the makeover strategy that SkillsCommons has put forth and wants to share with you today.

And so a lot of questions came up about that in the last presentation webinar about, we can really just use anything in there? And so if it has the CC-BY license on it, yes, that's the part of the – the great thing about that. So we'll share a little bit more about that and how to find out more about the CC-BY license as we go through the presentation here.

So you want to improve and customize your needs of OER to meet the needs that you have. So how would you do that, and that sort of thing? So we're going to use the analogy of those home improvement shows, you know, where they do a before and after of the home that somebody bought and they fixed it up and did all that great stuff. So we're going to discuss how you can use the material in SkillsCommons to create the instructional materials that meet the needs of your institution, your teachers and your students, and also for your employees if you're in employment. OK?

But first, we'd like to show an example of a makeover and what that looks like. And so can we start that now? Do I just hit that, Laura? OK. Great. So we're going to kind of show you what a makeover as an overview looks like. And we'll hit the play button here. And we used some manufacturing material out of SkillsCommons that was submitted.

And so we just go through this process of going in, browsing and finding some material to download from SkillsCommons. We go into the item submission page. We look at, oh, there's a Word document. Well, we open the Word document and it's just plain text, you know. And so this is kind of the original – the before, right? So really not much interactivity on it. It's just got some bullet points; it's got some nice graphs and charts and graphics and pictures. And then there's also here these URL links to resources that you just have to click.

So we make a re-use version and we do a makeover and we do the magic and we put it into SoftChalk CLOUD and we import the content to provide more interactive capabilities. We have – you can listen to it. We have shortcuts to the different pages in that Word document. Here you can re-brand it, just to show you an example. Also, we had the CC-BY attribution license on it, making a derivative of this.

We go into the next pages and we can roll over the images that were on that graphic in that table and you can see the definitions. We took the URL links for the videos and embedded them into the learning management system – into the SoftChalk learning management system. Added some other graphics here and then made some interactivity with some questions that were pulled from the documents. So made it more functional and interactive.

So wanted to let you know that we have all these resources that are available to assist you on the SkillsCommons support center in the revised – re-use and revise educational services.

So thank you, Laura, and we'll go back to the slide deck and take you into the – actually, let's go to the screen share. Yeah. Thank you.

And should be showing up. (Pause.)

So here's our support center. And we designed this specifically with the grantees in mind and how to upload their content and the material. But if you want to learn more about the Creative Commons license and the CC-BY and what all that means, there's a shortcut link right in here in the SkillsCommons support center. All right.

And then also, if you look in revise and re-use, we have some guides and use cases and discussion about the CC-BY license here. Let me see if I blow this up one more if that makes it a little bit more visible on your screens as I talk through.

But invite you to come in and look at this page as well. So we've got some helpful material. It's not even for grantees, but anybody can use this outside of TAACCCT as well. So I want you to feel free to re-use any of this material. It's all got CC-BY license on it. And just to give you some ideas and help on how to re-use the content in SkillsCommons.

And also wanted to draw your attention to this open attribution builder that's also available as a link that the Washington – University of Washington did as a part of the TAACCCT grant as a partner with Creative Commons. They had a subgrant and so they created this attribution license builder, which is a great tool that you can come in, if you're going to re-use something out of SkillsCommons and you can just basically fill in all your information here and it'll create the license for you. You can just copy and paste it into your document or your course management. OK? So that's a great little resource there for you.

All right. So there's some home improvements that you can do on your own. And so you're going do that, normally you might go to a hardware store or a big-box store like Home Depot or Lowe's to get some materials and equipment, all that good stuff, and your advice and what to do.

But SkillsCommons is kind of like that. That's what we're trying to build here with the makeover strategy, kind of a one-stop-shop. Except all the things that you'll see in SkillsCommons are free. And so we'll – everything you'll need to do that.

So the great thing is we've begun the makeover strategy and building partnerships with technology companies. And we're going to go into this a little bit deeper later on in the presentation, but I wanted to make you aware that as a result of working with the TAACCCT grantees we've found out that a number of them have already worked with some technology partners.

But then there's also some great services the technology partners can provide to you as either a TAACCCT grantee or a non-TAACCCT grantee or anybody out there that wants to use, re-use, content in SkillsCommons and make it over. They have expertise and advice. So we'll go into that a little bit deeper when we get to that part of the presentation.

But for now what we want to do is we want to kind of just briefly show it – I know we did this in the first one – webinar – is to show you how to find content in SkillsCommons that you might want to use.

And we have two ways you can go about doing it. You can go in through the industry or the industry wheel through the browse feature, or you can just scroll down to the page and hit this wheel that we call the industry wheel. And it brings up this wheel and it has catalogued, as the grantees submit their material into SkillsCommons, according to the NAICS codes – the North American industrial codes. And so everything is catalogued by that. So if you're looking for a particular content and particular industry sector, you can sure go through that.

And so the neat thing about this wheel is you'll see that manufacturing – it shows there's 1,013 materials; in health care, there's 1,288; in professional/scientific technical services, 914; information technology, 706. You just keep going around; it's kind of cool.

But if you click a section – for example, here's manufacturing – you can narrow your search according to the subcategories in the NAICS codes. And again, you'll see in parenthesis the number of materials in that sub area. So that's a great way to go through and look for content.

Laura, I wonder if you might be able to share the poll question about if people have used the free online courses – free online educational sources in SkillsCommons? OK. Great. That's up.

And then also the question about which best describes your industry sector that you might be looking for content in. OK.

And so SkillsCommons, again, is catalogued according to the NAICS codes. But I wanted to let you know too that the main areas of focus for the TAACCCT grant were in the industry sectors of manufacturing, health care, information technology and energy. That doesn't mean there aren't things in other areas.

As you see here at the top, there's some information in developmental education as people created things to get their programs up and running. There's things in agricultural and forest and hunting. There may not be as much, but there may be a few things in here that you're looking for. OK?

But this is another way to browse other – this is kind of like the ADA-compliant section of the wheel that we had just looked at. So you can come in and look at the industry codes this way and kind of scroll down. And again, you see the manufacturing codes and you see the way to the number of hits that come up and links that you can go right into the content and look at it.

Before we do that, I wanted to share with you just again briefly that you can refine your search over here in this gray box that says "industry." And so you can even refine your search to the NAICS codes. And the first number in parenthesis, the NAICS code; and then the second one is the number of materials in that section. OK? So manufacturing – miscellaneous manufacturing, number 339, there's 185. Manufacturing, fabricated metal, product manufacturing, that code is 332 but there's 118. All right?

And then if you keep scrolling down, you can see here that you can refine the search. If you're just looking for hybrid and blended courses, there's 218 in manufacturing. And then you see the others that are listed there.

You can also search by credential type. Maybe you're just looking for some certificate courses or you want to build some courses that apply to an associate degree or you're looking for some of these other types of credentials, they're there as well. And also, the institution. All right? So just wanted to show that to you real quick.

Cheryl, do you want to make any comment about the polling questions where folks are finding their interest?

MS. MARTIN: Yeah. It's interesting to see that about 23 percent of you – or so – have used some of the resources on SkillsCommons already. And the rest of you have not. So that's great. We're hoping that more people can.

Looking like a lot of people are interested in manufacturing. The bulk. Well, I guess that's like 14 people, so it's a small – it's kind of a small sample size. But manufacturing, health care, a few IT, one transportation. And then several "others," including some folks who are saying, I noticed in the chat box, that you want to look at everything, so that's great.

OK. Back to you, Rick.

MR. LUMADUE: Great. Thank you. So now we'll look at one of the materials in that list in the manufacturing area. And so we'll see here that it comes up to this description page and it gives you the title of the files, a brief description – as a grantee, it'll put it in there – and then a couple of files that you can actually download.

And then some more information about the material, like the type of material that it is. What is a tutorial? Where it was created? At what college? Under what grant project? And then the different industry sectors. And then the SOCs codes, the occupation codes there and where it fits into the educational information, all the levels of – what level of college it would be, what type of material it is.

And then some quality note here, so that kind of helps you determine, hmm, do I want to use this or not? Did it go through some checks and all that? So this might be helpful for you as well.

And then quality of subject matter expert. These things are provided as well, the information. Some will have a little bit more or less, depending on what they used here. And then again, the Creative Commons licensing is available. All right?

So as we look at the makeover process, you look at this content here that – you can download it. So you can just click this file and you can download it, which is what we saw in that little video. And so you can go in and then you can take that document and, as we showed in the video, to make it over into – using SoftChalk learning management system. Or you could do it into an e-textbook. And we have a number of these different showcases that we provide on the SkillsCommons website, which we'll look at here in a bit.

But I wanted to draw your attention to what are we talking about when we're thinking of a makeover? It's really here; we provide a definition for you. And so it's a little bit more involved than just re-using it or creating a derivative of the content. It's actually transformational. All right?

So if you saw the Word document, it's actually transforming that and making it more interactive, more usable, even adding some UDL – Universal Design for Learning – principles, some effective resources as well. You saw the edits to the branding. We put SkillsCommons on there, but you could put your institution or your company, whatever.

But anyway, so just wanted to kind of break that down a little bit and pack that of what a makeover actually is. And I think the video kind of really sets that up very well.

What are the benefits of doing a makeover? And so, well, one, it can reduce your production time and financial cost because you don't have to go in and develop all the content yourself. You can just take that Word document and it's got all the content, and the time that it would take to develop that. And go and find the URLs for the YouTube videos or the interactive components for making an interactive learning assignment there at the bottom where you saw the little quiz and you go through the problem – the different scenarios. So all that content is there; it's just adding it – doing a makeover into whatever format you're comfortable with or what meets the needs of your students and your institution.

So I wanted to share with you as well that you can do – as we talked about at the beginning, you can do it yourself. You can go to Home Depot, you can go to Lowe's, and you can work on some of these home projects you want to do on your own. Well, same with SkillsCommons. So in SkillsCommons we're providing some of these services to you.

Like for example, I want to ensure that the quality of an online or hybrid course that I might develop. So there's some links here that we have. We have the quality online learning and teaching instrument for the design of an online course and hybrid. And it's a rubric that you can use and have other folks use it, third party, to assess how well the course looks.

We've also got links to Quality Matters. Your institution may even be a part of Quality Matters or may have folks there that are a part of that. Also have the Online Learning Consortium and their quality scorecard program.

So some of our grantees are using these services; others have their own. We're just providing things here as kind of a one-stop-shop to help you if you're going to do it yourself and provide that service for you.

And the same goes for, I want to do it myself but I've got ADA compliance and all this good stuff. So how do I ensure that? So we've developed all these guides and resources to help you, again, in your one-stop-shop for doing it yourself if you want to re-use and make over content from SkillsCommons. And all the links and things are available there. OK?

As well, we've developed these completing and closing out your grant documents to help you assess – to help the grantees assess the requirements that the TAACCCT grant has. But you might want to consider using these or even making these over for your institution or for your needs, for certain things that you want to meet regarding Creative Commons licensing. So maybe it's not the standard that the TAACCCT grant has, but there may be some things that you want to look at.

So these templates are available, again, for you if it's something that's helpful and useful for you. Feel free to take them and re-use them, re-brand them. We've got things on how to do – for subject matter experts, reviews, templates. These are just all kind of voluntary for grantees; if they need them, they can use them. Again, if you want to use them, they're there.

Again, using industry e-learning open standards and specs, that's something that you might find useful, all depending on – everybody's at a different level and we understand that. So we just want to share the resources that are available on SkillsCommons to help you out.

But there's some projects – again, you can do it yourself, but there's some projects that you might need a professional's help with. And so that's where the makeover strategy has come into place. And so we're going to kind of go down into that now and – but first we want to look at what the different types of makeovers are in SkillsCommons.

And so far, we've been working with grantees in making over content for folks based on their needs are in the content makeover, which is what we saw in that first example with the little video, taking the Word document and transforming it into a learning management system. So the content makeover. And then packaging and delivery makeovers; so this is where you might take content and put it into a learning management system. So we'll go look at that now.

The first one, content makeover. Here's the process of creating the interactive content makeover and what the goal was and all that good stuff. And so again, before and after, and how to implement the makeover. So all those – just really breaking it down for you and the process of what it would be to work with a professional on that.

And then for the packaging and delivery, here's the write-up and the page about how that process was accomplished with the learning management system makeover.

OK. At this point we'll go in and we'll look at some showcases of the makeovers in SkillsCommons. And so if you just go to the top of the SkillsCommons site – or we also have a link on the home page – you'll look at the makeover showcases.

And so what are the makeovers here? We have all these different examples for you to look at. We've got them catalogued up here, so if you just want to skip to one of them and you want to look at – oh, I want to leverage my learning management system. I don't want to have to scroll through all these; I can just get to the page quicker that way.

But here are the content makeovers at the top. We'll just go through and kind of just give you an overview. And then see there's applying Universal Design for Learning. Some packaging and delivery; you convert a Word and PDF document to an e-book. You convert a Word document and PowerPoint documents to an Apple iBook. Just all kinds of different things you can do. Leverage your learning management system.

So one other thing I wanted to stress to you was that the courses that are exported from the grantees that are putting into SkillsCommons are exported using a Creative Commons cartridge. And Jeff's going to explain a little bit more about that when we get down to the nuts and bolts of the actual process here.

But you can actually take that IMS common cartridge export file and load that up into your learning management system. So for example, you may not be in Blackboard or Moodle, but you may be using Tandis (ph) or D2L (ph); you can take that and upload it – a Blackboard learning management system export using common cartridge and put that into a different learning management system. So that's a good thing as well.

So at this point we'll look at the makeover showcases. And wanted to show you the interactive content makeovers. So we looked at that. And yeah. We wanted to look at the before and after of the content.

So here again is the Word document that you can look at. The original materials are linked to it after the makeover was implemented; you can look at it there. And then, as showcased here, you can go back to the makeover page and it'll actually explain what the goal of the makeover was and you can learn more about the ins and outs. And we'll be adding more of these, depending on where grantees or non-grantees are re-using and making over the content, so we can highlight that on these showcases as well.

And then also we have the Universal Design for Learning showcase. Need to scroll down to that one here first. Again, it was a newsletter from a grant project and they just basically had it in a PDF and wanted to just see if they could make it more interactive. So worked with a technology company and helped to develop a makeover and here's the process for that, using Universal Design for Learning. And you can actually see the after here, so – the before and after, the actual content, where it was submitted. And then after the makeover you can actually see that here.

I'm going to go ahead and try – we have a couple – we have a little bit of minutes here. So here's what the actual makeover looks like. And so imagine, again, it was a PDF, just a front and back. And so now it has some interactivity built into it. And here are the different colleges that were part of this grant project that built this, the CHEO Group.

And so you see here there's all this interactivity. You can – if you just want to skip around, you can use this down here and go to the health career hub a little bit quicker. Look at all this neat stuff here about Great Falls Community College – (inaudible).

So you see it's a little bit more interactive, a little bit more engaging than just a simple PDF. You can actually click on the different things and get information about the folks that are working there and just kind of see what the interactivity is there. It's all through, rather than just a PDF.

So Jeff, did you want to say anything about this point or any of the other makeovers that we just showcased the content and all that kind of stuff? Do you want to – would you like to share something there?

JEFF KAHN: Yes, folks, I'd be happy to do that. I've also been responding a little bit in the chat window to some specific questions.

So as Rick mentioned, makeovers are kind of on a continuum. Obviously, there may be material that's perfectly well-suited to your need and could be adopted right away.

On the other hand, there could be material that as-is, or as it was submitted into SkillsCommons – doesn't meet your exact need. Maybe you want to simply combine some material with other material. Maybe the material is fine, but you need to reorder it. Or maybe you want to make sure that it works well on a mobile device, but the form that was given doesn't. So there could be something relatively straightforward like that.

It could involve some re-thinking. Maybe there's the material that appeals, but the expression of the material – the way the material is designed for delivery to the audience – is not what you want. And you might want to do that yourself or you might want to consult with people who do that kind of activity all day long, whether they're in-house or whether they're third parties, and do that kind of a makeover.

So the point was to allow people to appreciate that these are great resources as-is, but they should not feel any hesitation to make them over, to change them in the ways that they feel will work. And then – and maybe we should stress this more directly – if you're a TAACCCT grantee, please re-submit or submit a made over piece of material back into the repository so that other people can benefit from it.

A little example that I ran into was a really nice set of questions in a particular subject, but the questions were all a Word document and it would have been nice to have sort of online questions that could be re-ordered and so on. So we went through that process but submitted that back so that other people would have the benefit of all that work. No other person would have to do that same makeover a second time.

I'll give it back to you, Rick.

MR. LUMADUE: Thanks, Jeff. And Cheryl, would you like to make any comment on the poll question that just popped up? And we're getting some responses on that. Just draw people's attention to complete that if they'd like?

MS. MARTIN: OK. Sure. Yeah.

MR. LUMADUE: (Inaudible) – makeover?

MS. MARTIN: If you haven't answered already – only a few people have – there's some poll questions up there right now. Which type of makeover would you be interested in creating? Are you more interested in content? Or packaging and delivery, taking some different content into different packaging? Both? It looks like most people are there. Neither? Or other?

So looks like the large majority are interested in both changing some of the content and changing some of the way that things are delivered. We can leave that poll up for a couple more minutes and people can add in if you want to.

MR. LUMADUE: OK. Great. Thanks, Cheryl.

And just continuing on with the types of things and advice and services you can find on SkillsCommons, your one-stop-shop for a makeover, we've built this whole section on connect – Connect Center. And so we have these different communities that are getting established, and one of the communities is connecting with the technology partners.

And we've seen this page already, but this is where you would go in and you would learn about how do I connect with a technology company? And what companies are part of the SkillsCommons makeover strategy? And are we sure that they're OK? And all that good stuff. To work with.

I just wanted to kind of – just to let you know that to become a SkillsCommons makeover affiliate or partner, the company has to submit a proposal and evidence of their services and able – for our purposes, for a TAACCCT grantee, to meet the SGA requirements for accessibility, UDL, interoperability, quality assurance, innovations, improvements in learning, acceleration in development – of workforce development skills.

And so I think that would apply – cover the bases on a lot of areas, even if you're not a TAACCCT grantee. But just have that assurance that before a company can become a partner with the SkillsCommons makeover strategy, they have to – they agree to that.

And Jeff, did you want to say any more about that? Because I know you've worked on this and you're working with the technology companies and partners as they come on board.

MR. KAHN: Right. Again, I would say it's relatively early days in terms of the partners that we've identified. They've worked with us in one context or another or were known to the MERLOT project, so I would imagine that list will grow quite a bit. We certainly point interested parties to the SkillsCommons repository. We ask them to look at the material, to see if they can do a makeover sort of for us so we can see what that might be and work through the process.

So it's a relatively deliberate thing. It's not just thrown open to filling the list. We're trying to put together parties that seem to be able to add value. And everyone is – all those companies are welcome, but we want to let people know that we do have a process for making sure that they're – they understand what kind of content is in there. And we've worked with them a little bit so we can then bring their makeover to the page so you can see some things. And we're happy to help through the support of SkillsCommons.org – guide in any way we can people to the right resources.

MR. LUMADUE: Thanks, Jeff. And as Jeff just mentioned, we can help you get connected with technology companies that can help you really kind of facilitate and create a customized makeover of the materials from SkillsCommons for your project and for your individual needs. So really more of a customized thing. But if you need help getting that, we can – getting connected, we can sure do that; but you can see here, the information is available for the different partners we have so far, and you can see those listed here on this page.

OK. The next thing we'll look at is connecting with technology companies. And what are the benefits, really, of working with a technology company? Why would you, and that sort of thing?

And so at this point I think I'm going to let Jeff chat about this a little bit, because he's really worked on this area. And kind of discuss with you some of the things that he's found and some of the benefits of working with technology companies, especially if you don't have expertise in some of these areas and you would like that. And they can definitely provide some of these services.

So Jeff, would you mind sharing that?

MR. KAHN: Certainly. And we've done this now a few times and some of the output of that process is what you see in those before-and-afters. A lot of times there's material that you say, I like the content, the core of the material, but I don't feel that it is interactive enough. Or do you have suggestions on how to make it more engaging? Or you'd like it to be more suitable to use in self-study instead of instructor-led. Those kinds of things.

So these parties have experience – obviously, deep experience with their own product, but also experience with what other customers have done in terms of what they started with and what they were able to produce. So they can give you examples and can help you think through how to meet your design and performance goals.

One of the other things that I'll mention that's kind of interesting about the material, there's often material that's put into SkillsCommons that's in a really good format for someone else to edit. So it was put there so that another party could come in and change it, make it suitable for their own purposes. But those formats aren't always the ideal formats for delivery.

So I know Rick showed earlier an example of a Word document and a PDF. Now, Word documents are really nice if you have Word, or if you have tools that can work with Word documents. PDFs are not as easy to edit as Word documents, but they don't require you to have Word. So there can be cases – or there was a mention earlier of iBooks. Well, iBooks are really nice, but that's only useful if the audience is able to run things on Apple products.

So I know somebody asked in the chat about formats and standardizing around them, and I think there are different formats for different purposes. And that's true of the content and certainly in the packaging and delivery part of makeovers. So you might make over content in more than one format for more than one audience. As I said earlier, maybe optimized for mobile, maybe optimized for self-study and so on.

So the technology partners can help lay out all of those solutions. And of course, we're happy to help if you want to do that yourself.

Back to you, Rick.

MR. LUMADUE: Thanks, Jeff. Yep. Thank you.

And Cheryl, do you want to make a comment about the poll question that's up there? We've got nine responses so far and just make sure folks know that the poll question's up.

MS. MARTIN: So would you be interested in connecting with a technology company? So a few of you are saying yes and a few of you are saying no. If you do have interest in that, what should people do? Just get in touch with you all or –

MR. LUMADUE: Yep. Yes. They sure can. They can – again, there – on the technology partner page we have the contact information for the different partners that we have with SkillsCommons. But if they need anything else besides this to get started, or they'd like us to kind of join them – kind of broker that relationship, kind of use our relationships with those folks – or mainly Jeff's, I would say – please let us know. We'll provide the email address here at the end of the presentation. But for sure we can do anything – whatever people need to help to get those relationships established.

MS. MARTIN: OK. Thanks, Rick. But I just want to establish that it's not at all necessary for people to use those technology partners –

MR. LUMADUE: Right.

MS. MARTIN: – in order to use the materials on SkillsCommons, correct?

MR. LUMADUE: Exactly. That's right. You can do it – again, these are the professionals. Sometimes you get into a big makeover on your home and you need to call in a big contractor to help you with some areas you might not have those skills on. But again, there's the do-it-yourselfers and you guys, depending on your skill sets and your background, experience, you can do all this yourself if you want. You can go as big as you want or as small as you want.

But again, you don't need a technology company to do a makeover. Again, just a one-stop-shop here of services that, if you need them, they're available here that we put on the site.

Thanks, Cheryl. Good clarification.

Another service that we provide the grantees and we can – this is – really, anybody can come to this – is that the TAACCCT @ INNOVATE conference is part of the online learning consortium and MERLOT's annual conference. And so we have opportunities there where we could meet with you, if you would like to do a face-to-face. Welcome to come to the conference and we can talk about makeovers. We'll have – some of the technology partners will be there as well, if you want to connect there.

But we provide that service there for you, so we want to draw your attention to that as well. If you'd like more information and kind of one-on-one, face-to-face meeting, feel free to come and meet with us in-person, live, at the TAACCCT @ INNOVATE conference. And we've got all that information on our site as well. So we'll have – that link is also included in the presentation.

And then we're getting close to the time. I think we've got about five minutes here. But one other thing. Maybe if we could – let's see. Stop the screen share and we'll go back to the presentation. And we'll scroll through all these. Oh, you already did. Thank you.

OK. So if you've got questions or anything like that, we've also got some FAQs that are included in the – for downloading. And if you're going to re-use content from SkillsCommons, how do I open a zip file and – (inaudible) – if you just want to look at it – some of the content in there? We've got some FAQs on that and some help for you in the download of the content from SkillsCommons. And those are included in the slide deck, along with the URL to the FAQ section in SkillsCommons.

But again, if you've got questions, support@skillscommons.org will come right to me. We also have a link to FAQ for downloading about re-using the content and the attribution builder and all that great stuff.

So anything you need, let us know and we're here to provide services. Anything we can to promote the re-use of SkillsCommons.

And as Jeff mentioned earlier, we'd love to see any kind of things that you've done to the material on SkillsCommons. If you're going to make it over, we'd love to put that back in SkillsCommons and see the next version. That's really kind of the goal of what we're trying to do here with all this workforce development program that's out there in SkillsCommons, to show the next version and great creativity that people have and to allow that to be re-used as well.

So let us know if you're doing any type of makeovers and we'd like to re-submit that to SkillsCommons. We would definitely be interested in promoting that and highlighting that and adding it to our showcases.

So with that, Cheryl, I think I'll hand it back to you. And again, if you need to get in touch with us at SkillsCommons, support@skillscommons.org is the email address.

Thank you, all. I appreciate your attention and time to let us share today.

MS. MARTIN: All right. Well, thank you, Rick. And we appreciate you and Jeff coming on today. And we appreciate everybody coming on to listen. We hope that we will hear from you, see some of the things that you're re-making with this and get your further questions. And especially we hope that you will tell other folks about SkillsCommons and let them know.

I just came across a press release yesterday about a state that was doing workforce development in a coordinated way throughout the state, using all the different community colleges. And I sent them a note and said, hey – they said, we might have some classes already in our community colleges in our state; but if not, we'll develop the curriculum for you. And I sent them a note and said, hey, if you are developing new curriculum, here – for that purpose or any other purpose, here is a place that you could start if you wanted to.

So it's that kind of word of mouth that helps us get the word out about a well-kept secret that we don't want to be a secret anymore.

Thank you so much for joining us. I'm going to turn it back over to Laura for a few more final questions for everybody to ask us about today's webinar.

MS. CASERTANO: All right. Great. I just want to thank all the presenters and –

(END)