Open educational resources (OER) increase equitable access to education and empower students in the learning process. Open pedagogy – an approach to teaching and learning that draws on OER – places the student at the center of that learning process in a more engaging, authentic, and collaborative learning environment in order to achieve social justice in the community. Entering its fourth year, the UN SDG Open Pedagogy Faculty Fellowship teams faculty members from different institutions and different disciplines to develop renewable assignments that address one or more of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

The fellowship now includes seven institutional partners from the United States and Canada, and it includes two-year community colleges and four-year universities. This year about 50 faculty from Montgomery College (Maryland, USA), Kwantlen Polytechnic University (British Columbia, Canada), Maricopa Community College (Arizona, USA), Pima Community College (Arizona, USA), Langara College (British Columbia, Canada), Thompson Rivers University (British Columbia, Canada) and Community College of Baltimore County (Maryland, USA) participated. Since inception of the fellowship, about 120 faculty have participated and almost 5,000 students impacted.

Faculty participants learn about open pedagogy, Creative Commons, and renewable assignments as they work in interdisciplinary teams. Each fellowship team designs three renewable assignments over the summer. A minimum of two renewable assignments are deployed in the individual classes of each fellowship team in the Fall Semester. Faculty present on their proposed assignments prior to their deployment. A student showcase takes place in the spring in which a select number of students present on how they improved their communities and achieved global justice through the UN SDG framework. Students become partners in the learning process as the assignments they are given allow them to be agents of change within their own communities.

In 2020, Montgomery College was recognized by the Open Education Global consortium (OE Global) for their innovative open pedagogy fellowship. The College was named winner in the Open Pedagogy category of the 2020 Open Education Awards for Excellence.

More information is available at https://kpu.pressbooks.pub/unsdgtoolkit/ and https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/offices/elite/unesco/