



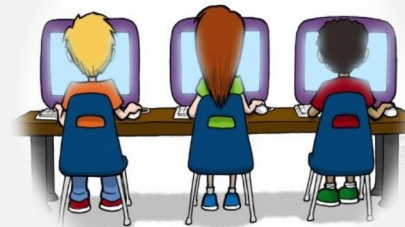
**MC** MONTGOMERY  
COLLEGE

# OERs: Leading with Accessibility

**MC** MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

Dean Shinta Hernandez  
Inclusion by Design Summit  
April 2024

# The Virtual Campus Structure



Digital Learning Center

# What is Open Education?



Inclusive, collaborative, and participatory open pedagogy



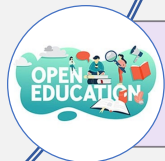
Freely and publicly available commonly licensed materials (OERs)



Technology is leveraged to facilitate widespread access to OERs

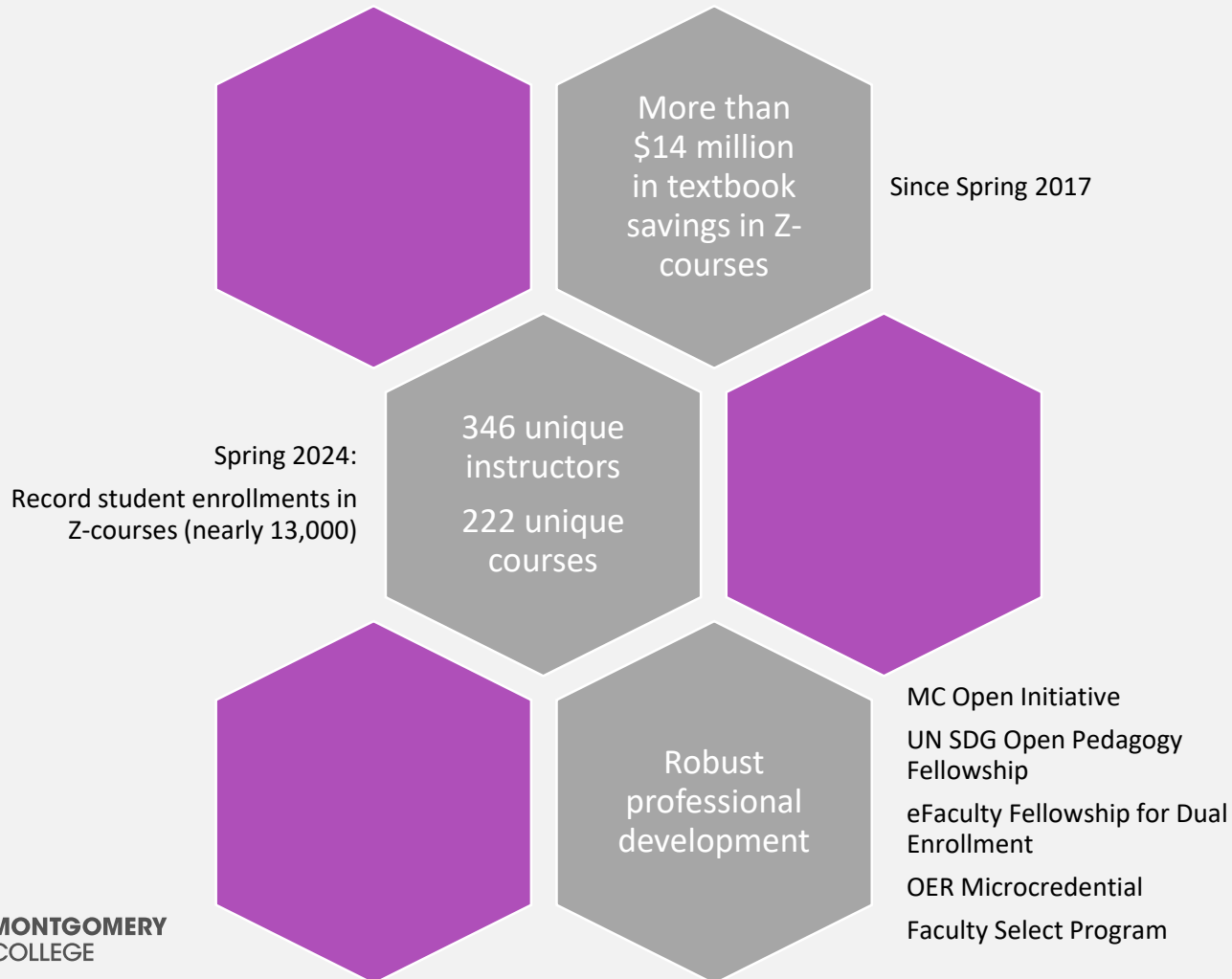


Online platforms and digital tools promote delivery of OERs

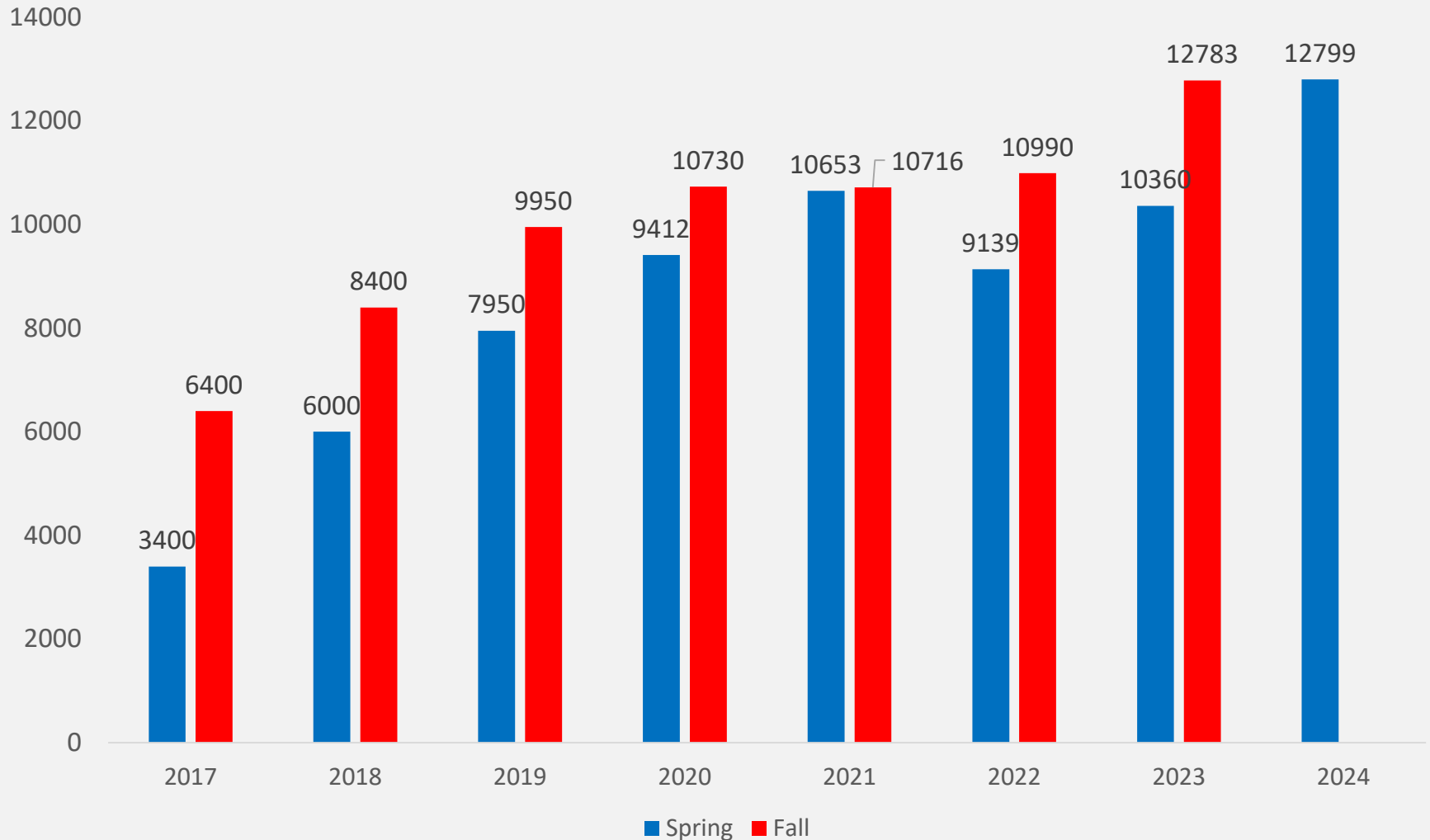


Students become empowered collaborators in their learning process

# Outcomes of Open Education @ MC

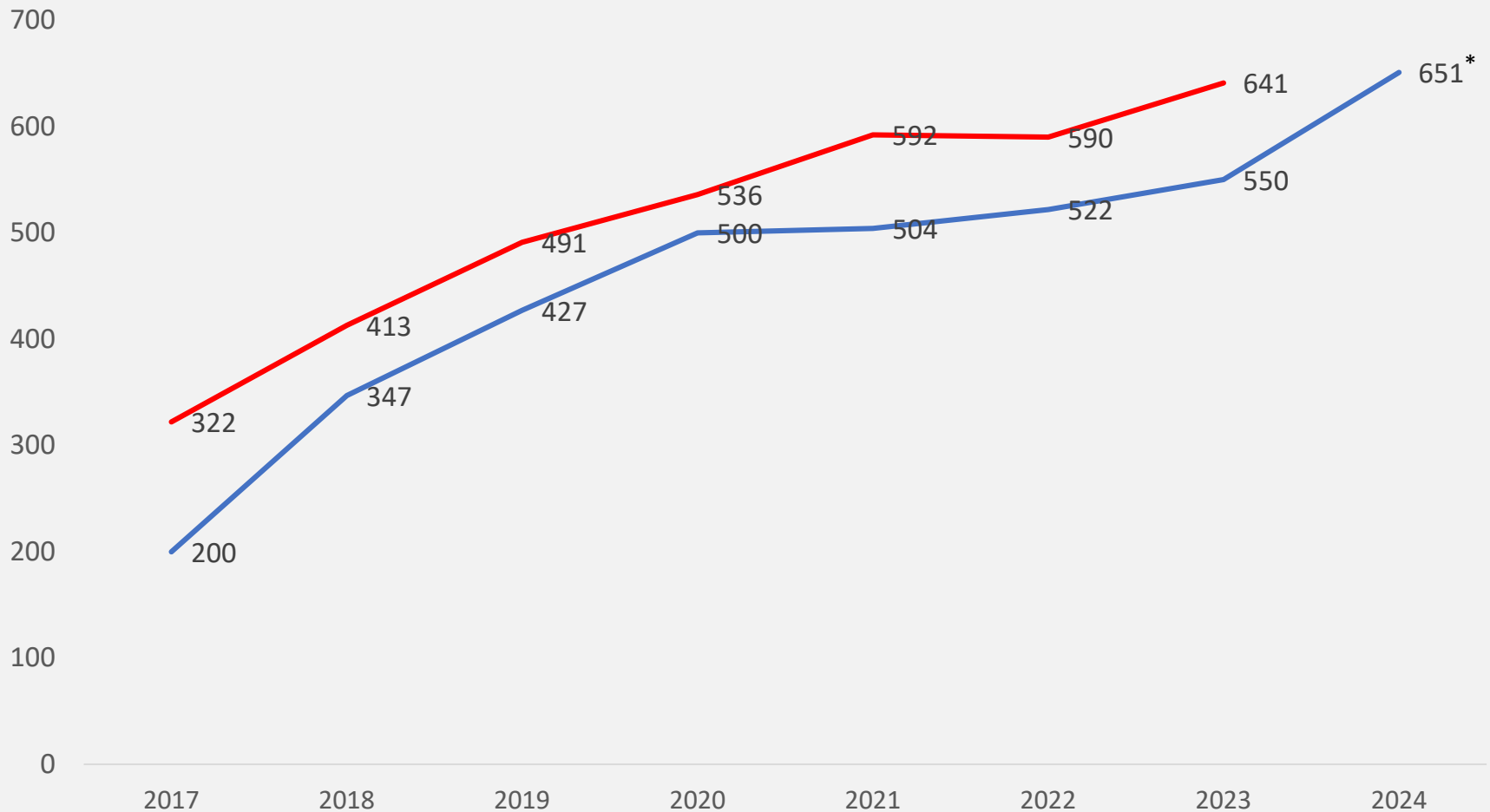


# Z-Course Enrollment Growth: Spring 2017 – Spring 2024





# Z-Course Section Growth: Spring 2017 – Spring 2024



\* Spring 2024: 346 unique instructors and 222 unique courses.

— Spring — Fall

# MC Open Faculty



## Improve Student Success Through Open Educational Resources

The **MC Open initiative** focuses on faculty redesigning courses using Open Educational Resources (OER) to leverage pedagogy that fosters student success while reducing costs and increasing access to course materials. Montgomery College is committed to providing OER course options leading to degree completion (commonly called Z-degrees). The MC Open initiative aims to:

1. Promote student success by encouraging faculty to redesign courses using Open Educational Resources and other free resources that engage, connect and support student learning.
2. Make education more affordable by reducing or eliminating required costs for course materials.
3. Decrease time to degree completion by giving students the option of applying money towards an additional course rather than to purchasing textbooks or other required course materials and by providing clear paths to degree completion.

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# The Significance of Course Accessibility

## Student Population

- 19% of U.S. undergraduates report a disability (NCES, 2019)

## DEIB Principles


- Increasing diversity in college classrooms, especially MC (NCES, 2022)

## College Affordability

- Average college tuition is rising: 4% for private; 2% for public (US News, 2023)



# How OERs Improve Accessibility



Provide flexibility: OERs can be customized to meet diverse learning needs

Compatibility with assistive technologies: OERs can be reformatted

Cost-effectiveness: OERs can reduce financial barriers to course access

# Tips and Strategies for OER Accessibility

## Visual

Digital  
Formats

Images  
Descriptions

## Auditory

Video  
Captions

Video  
Transcripts

## Cognitive

Interactive  
Quizzes  
(H5P)

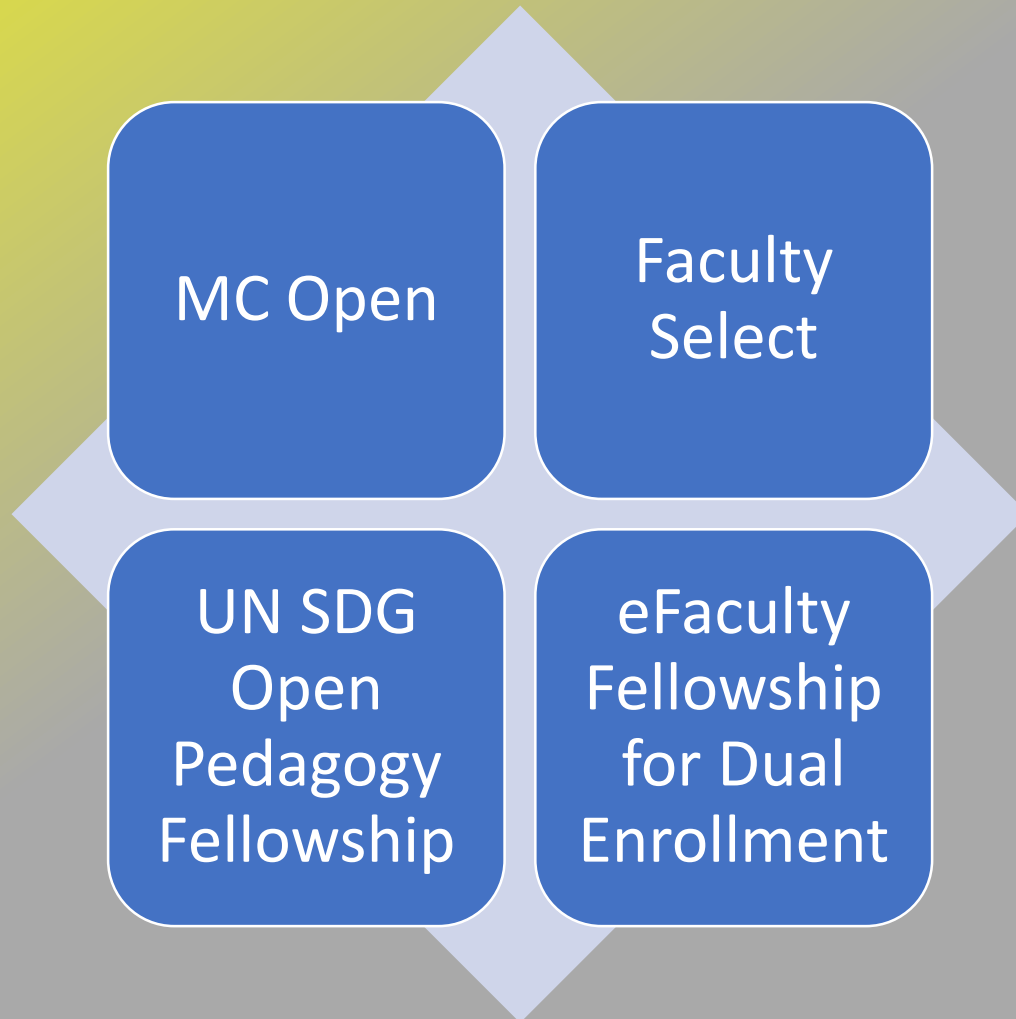
Simple  
Navigation

## Physical

Online  
Availability

Mobile  
Device  
Compatibility

# Conclusion: Next Steps



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