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# **ROTEL: Remixing Open Textbooks through an Equity Lens**

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**A Collaboration Across Six Massachusetts Public  
Higher Education Institutions**

# About ROTEL

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Department of Education Federally Funded Grant – Open Textbook Pilot - \$1.3M

3 universities and 3 community colleges and MA Dept. Higher Ed: Framingham State, Salem State, Fitchburg State, Northern Essex CC, Holyoke CC, Springfield Technical CC.

Stipends + Support + Training + Industry Input

**Remix and develop accessible, intentionally inclusive OER** that reflect students' local and lived experiences to improve student learning outcomes (particularly from underserved communities).

Stipends for faculty: \$3K for adaptation, \$5K for creation, \$500 for adoption of ROTEL textbook. Evaluation of proposals via a rubric.

Support and training: Partnership with Rebus Foundation to provide a year-long mentoring track (Textbook Success Program), 5 training webinars, consultations with experts in DEI and accessibility.

**Ensure scalability, longevity and expanded use throughout the state** through promotion at MA OER Council comprised of all public higher education institutions (which includes OTCC). Promote nationally through networks, and presentation at conferences.



# ROTEL Inclusive and Equity Focused

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- We partnered with leading experts in OER, accessibility, and DEI: Rebus Foundation, ISKME/CAST, DEI consultant.
- Faculty are exposed to training through mentoring, training, and consultations.
- Publishing Support Team trained by these experts and use it in the creation of the published online textbook.
- We encouraged diverse faculty to remix textbooks.
- We are intentional about representation, pronouns, accessibility and context.
- We anticipate improved student learning outcomes (particularly from underserved communities) and will track through assessment.

# Partners

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**Rebus** COMMUNITY



**hypothes.is**

**PB** PRESSBOOKS



**ISKME**

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Institute for the Study of  
Knowledge Management  
in Education

**R** **ROTEL**  
Project

# Publishing Support Team

- Help navigate the publishing steps for the ROTEL project author groups.
- Assist in utilizing the digital medium to its fullest.
- Ensure the OER materials meet all accessibility and open standards.
- Work in conjunction with all stakeholders to get authors to get books published.
- PST Showcase of Decisions



# Assessment: What does SUCCESS look like?

- The COUP Framework from the Open Education Group allows for a more comprehensive view of OER beyond the more common cost savings metrics.
- The perceptions area is particularly applicable to the ROTEL project

## Questions to explore include:

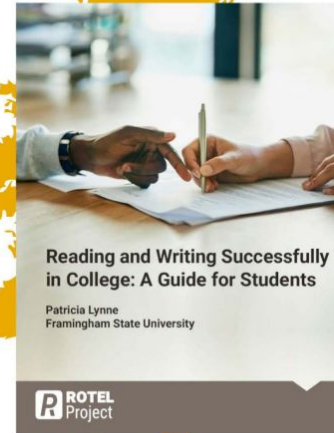
- What do faculty and students think about, and feel toward OER that are more accessible, inclusive and representative?
- How do they judge their effectiveness relative to traditional textbooks?

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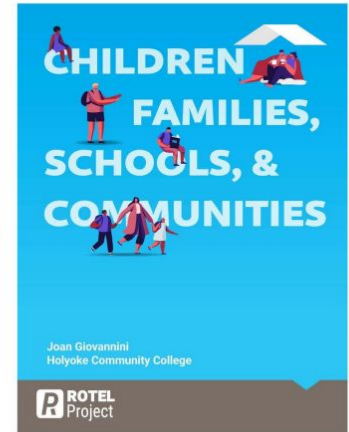
# Our Books!



Sarah Gilleman



Patricia Lynne



Joan Giovannini

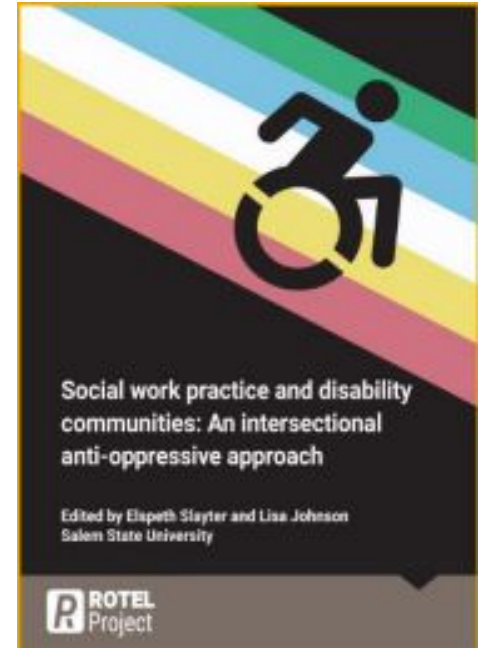


# Social Work Practice and Disability Communities

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**Authors: Elspeth Slayter and Lisa Johnson, Salem State University**

- Intended Audience: Social work students, faculty and practitioners in the United States
- Primary objective is to present an innovative practice model for social workers to use with disabled people, one of the largest minoritized groups in the U.S. (26% of the adult population)
- The main themes woven throughout the book are the intersectionality theory, the critical cultural competence framework and anti-oppressive practice.
- Presents the experiences of a range of disabled people with different social identities in various service areas as a way to inform better social work practice.

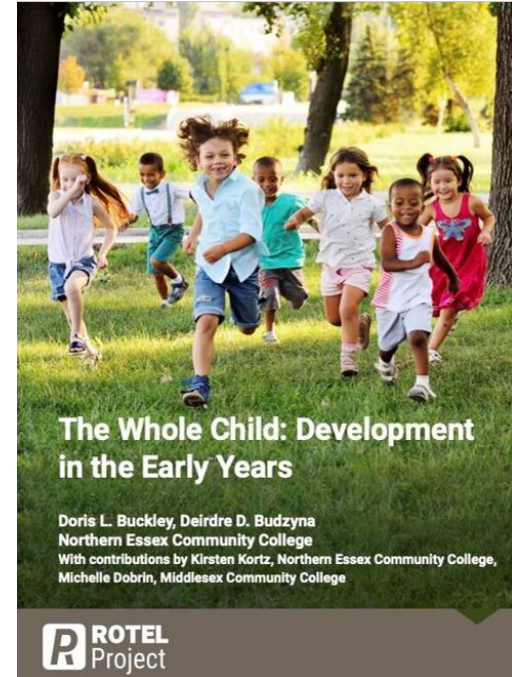




# The Whole Child: Development in the Early Years

**Authors: Doris Buckley & Deirdre Budzyna, Northern Essex Community College**

- Child Growth & Development - HIGH IMPACT Course
- Commercial Textbook = approx. \$150
- Cost Savings: \$24,000 (5 sections) each year!
- Common course required by all Massachusetts ECE to receive teacher licensure.
- Involved students in making this textbook culturally relevant to the students in the classroom.
- Communicating different views of child development and child-rearing in different cultures
- Future: Translate this textbook into Spanish and have a bi-lingual version available for students.

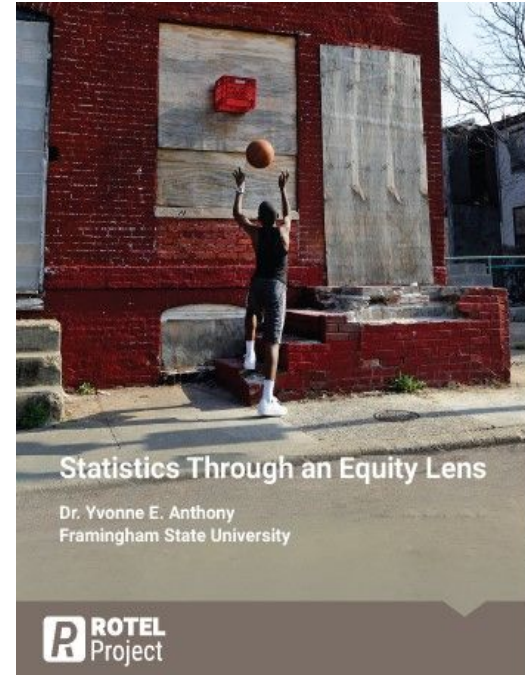


# Statistics Through an Equity Lens

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**Author: Yvonne Anthony, Framingham State University**

- Culturally responsive statistics textbook from which students will come to recognize how statistical concepts are relevant to issues of equality and social justice especially for young and older adult learners who are low-income, first-generation students of color.
- Integrate culturally relevant content by using word problems that are culturally familiar and social issues relevant to communities of color.
- Uses data about health disparities among racial groups and women to help students understand social stratification, inequality, exploitation, and oppression.
- Intentional focus on promoting equity in society in every chapter of the book.



# The Results



**1,290**  
Students Reached in One Year



**43**  
Projects

**\$149,000**  
Projected Savings for One Year

**\$299,280**  
With Two Sections Taught



**6**  
Institutions



**58**  
Authors



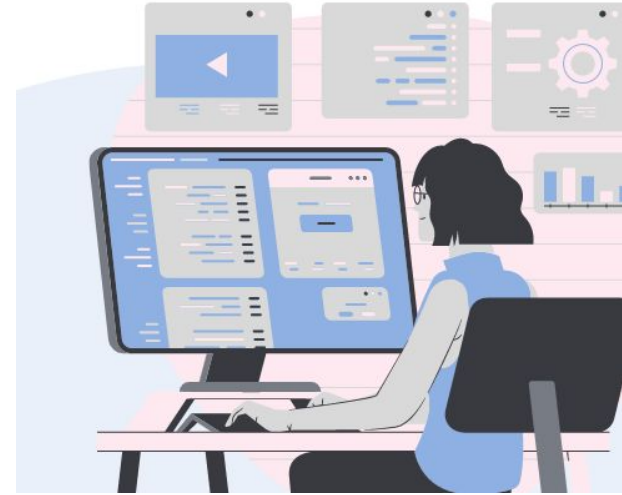
**5**  
Years

**\$1,496,400**  
Projected Savings

# Challenges

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- Complexity of the grant; ambitious
- Administrative Workload; delay in funding
- Communication among all institutions, faculty, partners, advisory council, faculty support team
- Developing publishing process without being a publisher; building expertise
- Meeting faculty needs
- Workload and burnout



# Resources

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[ROTEL website](#)

[List of ROTEL Projects by Institution  
\(includes faculty authors & emails\)](#)



The screenshot shows the homepage of the ROTEL Project website. At the top right is the ROTEL Project logo. Below it is a navigation menu with links for Home, About the Project, Our Books, Resources, Events, and Contact. The main heading is "ROTEL Project" in blue, followed by a sub-heading "Remixing Open Textbooks through an Equity Lens (ROTEL):" and a descriptive sentence: "Culturally Relevant Open Textbooks for High Enrollment General Education Courses and Career and Professional Courses at Six Public Massachusetts Colleges". Below this is a section titled "Our Mission" in yellow, with a paragraph of italicized text describing the project's goals.

**ROTEL Project**

Home About the Project Our Books Resources Events Contact

## ROTEL Project

### Remixing Open Textbooks through an Equity Lens (ROTEL):

Culturally Relevant Open Textbooks for High Enrollment General Education Courses and Career and Professional Courses at Six Public Massachusetts Colleges

### Our Mission

*The ROTEL initiative promotes textbook affordability, student success, and inclusion and equity to benefit all students, particularly minoritized students at our six institutions. The project will provide stipends for faculty to remix and/or develop accessible, intentionally inclusive open textbooks and other OER that reflect students' local and lived experiences.*