Open Peer Review

Reviewer: Joyce Martin

Recommendation: Accept Submission

Scope, Objectives, Content

Is the article in scope for Journal of Open Educational Resources in Higher Education? Does the topic discuss an element related to open education, open data, open access, or other open topics? Is the topic an important one, or is it trivial or of low priority?

"Reimagining Leadership in Open Education: Networking to Promote Social Justice and Systemic Change" is perfectly suited for the Journal of Open Educational Resources in Higher Education. As the authors note, leadership, and who has a seat at decision making tables in the open education arena, is a crucial part of the open education conversation. The authors discuss a specific case study, the creation and efficacy of the Regional Leaders of Open Education Network (RLOE) to help a diverse group of leaders build out their institutions' open education plans in a way that supports underserved and underrepresented students.

Organization

Does the article proceed logically? As applicable, does the article adhere to a recommended structure and the section guideline?

The article structure and sections are clear, and flowed well throughout. In the literature review the authors established the benefits of a "network" as opposed to a top-down organization in developing leadership and used the literature to draw links between open education and social justice movements. These central themes of leadership, centering social justice, and networks/networking are reinforced throughout the article in the results and discussion sections.

Methodology, Approach, Conclusions

The methodology for data gathering and analysis should be appropriate for the problem addressed. Inferences from data should be sound--the author should not reach unsupported conclusions. Not all papers will use a scientific research methodology, but all should employ sound reasoning and an adequate balance between description and critical analysis. Consider: Is the article factually accurate? Is it clear the author knows, or has investigated, previous work on the subject of the article? Has the author failed to reference recent or seminal work on the subject?

The authors collected three types of data they used to discuss the success of the RLOE Network: 1) participant surveys following the RLOE workshops, summit, and program conclusion, 2) thematic coding of the members' open education final reports, and 3) selective quotes from participants. The authors used statistical analysis to analyze the survey data to indicate gains in knowledge in using individual leadership skills and OER to support underrepresented and underserved students. The conclusions drawn by the authors are based in both quantitative and qualitative evidence.

Writing Style, References

Please indicate whether there are problems with expression or flow, but do not comment about grammar or basic edits. Do NOT take the time to do copy editing - that will be handled later in the process. However, general comments pointing out problems with style or format are useful.

The article seems well researched.

Application:

Does the article contribute knowledge or practical examples that will inform/improve others' practice or education?

Yes, the authors discuss the RLOE Network as a model for others to develop new open education networks using an expanded definition of leadership and with a focus on social justice. The authors indicate a lack of diversity in open education leadership and note their network method and expanded definition of a leader could lead to new ideas and yield greater results toward Open Education.

What are the stronger points/qualities of the article?

I appreciate the forethought and level of assessment built into the RLOE Network activities. The authors put the frequent surveys to good use as they discussed the positive benefits or impacts that RLOE had on the participants. I would be curious to hear more about the action items surrounding open education coming out of the institutions participating in RLOE.

What are the weaker points/qualities of the article? How could they be strengthened?

I found the content of the appendix very valuable, but I did not see where the appendix was referred to in the paper. Perhaps that could be made more clear. I would like to learn more information about the specific knowledge gained by network participants and how that impacted their open education plans.

Peer Review Ranking: Scope

Does the topic discuss an element related to open education, open data, open access, or other open topics?

Highly Relevant

Peer Review Ranking: Clarity

Clarity of expression and flow? Does the article proceed logically?

Very Clear

Peer Review Ranking: Contribution

Contribution to Higher Education research and/or practice

Highly Contributes

Peer Review Ranking: Research Assessment

If this is a research paper, is the methodology appropriate?

Appropriate

Peer Review Ranking: Research Assessment

If this is a research paper, is the methodology appropriate? Does the article contribute knowledge or practical examples that will inform/improve others' practice or education?

Highly Sound

Overall Evaluation

3- Strong Accept