

Thank you for your work on finding high-quality, affordable solutions for textbooks for Illinois community college students.

I am writing this e-mail to echo some of the comments in the report and to discuss our Psychology department's experience with inclusive access. We use an online textbook in Connect Psychology, an educational platform through McGraw-Hill designed for individually tailored online instruction. All part-time and full-time faculty use this tool for our two highest enrollment classes - Introduction to Psychology and Lifespan Psychology. Our outcomes data has shown that this can help further support students in all formats to work effectively and be successful in mastering psychological concepts when they use this platform/tool.

Most recently, we switched to inclusive access and saw greater success rates for students in the 0 to 17 age category, which could be due to expanding our use of Connect Psychology and implementing inclusive access so that all students have access to the text and Connect Psychology assignments. Students in our traditional age category most likely benefit from the adaptive and mobile technology that goes along with this inclusive access to Connect Psychology.

So inclusive access is not only helping students get a very affordable, high-quality, well-researched, up-to-date textbook, it is also providing them with technological tools based on psychologically sound educational principles that lead to a deep level of student engagement with the textbook content. So, reducing the cost of textbooks alone is not ultimately helpful to educators or students if the students are not reading or engaging with that textbook content, which quality content and inclusive access can address. Further, students are disadvantaged if they do not start a course with access to their course textbook and educational tools. Providing inclusive access has shown through our data to be very valuable to student success and retention.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of this comment,

Heather

Heather LaCost  
Professor of Psychology  
Waubonsee Community College  
Route 47 at Waubonsee Drive  
Sugar Grove, IL 60554