ACHE OER Workshop 2025 Outline

# Building a Statewide Advocacy Network for Affordable Learning: Lessons from Georgia

## **Timing Breakdown**

* Preliminaries: 5 min
* Why a Network (Origins): 10 min
* Champion Model: 15 min
* Champion Impact: 10 min
* Supporting Champions: 10 min
* Designing Networks: 15 min
* Wrap-Up: 5 min

### **1. Preliminaries (5 minutes)**

* **Welcome and Objectives**
	+ Introduce yourself and the purpose of the workshop.
	+ Outcomes:
		- Learn what ALG is and why the Champion network was created.
		- Understand the roles and impact of Champions.
		- Explore how ALG supports its network.
		- Draft strategies for building a network in your own state/system.
* Quick participant poll & group set up: Who’s in the room (faculty, librarian, ID, admin)?
	+ Form small groups with representatives from each category as much as possible, explaining a few group activities are coming up.
	+ Have each role stand together, then pull one or two representatives from each role to form groups until all have been assigned.

### **2. Why a Network? The Origin Story (10 minutes)**

* **Context that led to ALG**
	+ Affordability + equity challenges in USG.
	+ Early roots in instructional design (eCore, USG Share), library collaboration, and first open textbooks.
	+ Launch of Affordable Learning Georgia in 2014 with state funding.
* **Why create Champions?**
	+ System needed local advocates to bridge silos.
	+ Mandates weren’t an option → had to build buy-in.
	+ Faculty, librarians, and designers as trusted campus leaders.

### **3. The ALG Champion Model (15 minutes)**

* **Champion Roles**
	+ Faculty Champion → peer-to-peer adoption and advocacy.
	+ Library Champion → curation, copyright, access.
	+ Design Champion → open pedagogy, instructional design.
* **How the network functions**
	+ Liaisons between ALG and campuses.
	+ Monthly system-wide meetings plus campus advocacy.
	+ Advisory group providing feedback to ALG.
	+ Serve as connectors across silos (faculty ↔ library ↔ CETLs)
	+ Open-ended volunteer role – we provide guidance, but Champions decide what their involvement looks like.
* **Why this works**
	+ Champions raise awareness in their own ways but with ALG brand and designation backing them.
	+ They provide help with grants, deadlines, and business office processes when on ground help is needed.
	+ They run campus info sessions and initiatives that expand ALG’s reach.
* Activity: What’s MISSING in AL? *Map who in your state/system could fill Champion roles for peer-to-peer adoptions and advocacy, curation, copyright, access, and open pedagogy and design.*

### **4. Champion Impact: Driving Systemwide Change (10 minutes)**

* Concrete examples:
	+ Increased awareness and participation in grants.
	+ Campus-hosted OER Summits and info sessions.
	+ Improved faculty success in navigating proposals and compliance.
	+ Expanded adoption of OER, contributing to >$150M in student savings since 2014.
* Anecdotal but clear: ALG’s systemwide growth is tied to Champions’ local advocacy.
* Reflection: *“What kinds of impact would you want your network to have in its first 3 years?”*

### **5. How ALG Supports Its Champions (10 minutes)**

* **Supports & resources provided**:
	+ Monthly meetings (updates, recognition, guest speakers, resource sharing).
	+ Roadshow campus visits.
	+ Champion resources website + newsletter.
	+ New Champion Welcome Training (history, grants, accessibility, pedagogy).
	+ Data, reporting,
* **New support & resources planned**
	+ Champion toolkits.
	+ Recognition through awards and ALG Awareness Week.
	+ Communities of Practice
* **Key takeaway:** Support makes the network sustainable → Champions volunteer, so all this matters to their ability to make an impact.
* Small-group brainstorm: *What support structures would your network need to thrive?*

### **6. Designing Your Own Network (15 minutes)**

* **Core components to defne**:
	+ Mission/values (affordability, equity, student success).
	+ Structure (formal vs. grassroots, state vs. system).
	+ Roles (Champions, coordinators, advisory group).
	+ Communication strategies (listservs, summits, newsletters).
* **Practical strategies to start**:
	+ Begin with a pilot team.
	+ Offer onboarding/training.
	+ Provide incentives or small grants where possible.
	+ Celebrate early wins (data + stories).
* Activity: Group design exercise – draft a 3-part plan for launching a network in your state/system.

### **7. Wrap-Up and Action Planning (5 minutes)**

* Individual reflection: *“What’s one concrete step I can take when I return to campus?”*
* Pair-and-share commitment.
* Provide resources (ALG site, SPARC, Open Education Network).
* Thank participants and invite ongoing collaboration.

*AI Disclosure: Workshop materials were created with assistance from ChatGPT.* Building a Statewide Advocacy Network for Affordable Learning: Lessons from Georgia © 2025 by Nakita Afaha is licensed under CC BY 4.0