ABOUT THE CLIENT

Industry:
Higher Education

Location:
Bowie, Maryland

Employees: 600

Students: 6,275

Project Overview:
Oracle Financials Cloud
Cloud Implementation
Services

Bowie State University (BSU) is one of 12 universities in the University System of Maryland (USM) and serves a diverse population of 6,300 students. BSU is a top public Historically Black College and University (HBCU). Founded in 1865, Bowie State is Maryland's oldest HBCU and one of the ten oldest in the country. Bowie State is a member-school of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund.

Bowie State University Streamlines its Financial System and Processes with Oracle Cloud Financials

The Challenge

Following a 2021 USM CIO's office audit, Bowie State faced a time-sensitive challenge – by July 1, 2022, Bowie State needed to move off its current Financials system which was no longer supported by Oracle. As a result, Bowie State elected to move to the modern Oracle Financial Cloud application as part of its "Cloud First" initiative. This approach freed Bowie State from the need to continue maintaining its legacy PeopleSoft infrastructure.

The Solution

Bowie State used Sierra-Cedar's T2C pre-mapped business processes, functional configurations, and data migration tools to accelerate its move to the Cloud, achieving significant efficiencies in staff time and effort. Since transitioning to Oracle Financial Cloud applications in July 2022, the Bowie State finance team has realized many benefits including:

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CLIENT BENEFITS

- An improved, automated Purchase Order workflow, which ensures individuals with appropriate purchase authority approve expenditures over a set threshold, eliminating significant audit risk for Bowie State.

- A streamlined Workflow Email approval process that enables authorized individuals to execute approvals via email rather than requiring them to log-in to the system.

- The ability to use spreadsheet load for regular and recurring invoices, Pay in Full, and Match in Full functionality, increasing processing efficiency with faster entries and more intuitive Cancel and Void payment functionality.

- Improved financial controls that improve Bowie State's management and reconciliation of its grants information.

- Enhanced reporting through use of delivered Dashboards for recent invoices, invoice holds, suppliers needing attention, budget override requests needing attention, and departmental budget monitoring.

- The ability of end users to easily create "finished" reports, a significant improvement over previous reporting processes which required manipulation of raw data and queries.

- Increased transparency of financial processes and integrations. Bowie State functional users can now review and resolve many problems directly instead of relying on IT staff to troubleshoot every issue.

> **We had a tight timeline and limited resources for our cloud project. Sierra-Cedar's skilled consultants and agile methodologies helped Bowie State migrate from PeopleSoft to Oracle Cloud seamlessly and efficiently.**
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> **Our core requirement for this project was to minimize the workload impact on our technical staff Sierra-Cedar met and exceeded these requirements with just the right amount of touchpoints and collaboration with my team to influence key decisions. My staff appreciated being able to provide input and approve progress at critical checkpoints along the way — without having to dedicate an excessive amount of their time to the project. Sierra-Cedar's effective Transition-to-Cloud process played a significant role in helping the University meet its requirements and deadlines."**
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> **Maurice Tyler**
> Chief Information Officer
> Bowie State University