



CLIENT SUCCESS STORY

Frederick Community College Modernizes Budgeting and Planning with Oracle EPM Cloud

Frederick Community College (FCC) is a public, two-year community college located in Frederick, Maryland. Founded in 1957, it serves thousands of students annually with affordable associate degree programs, certificates, and continuing education courses that support workforce training, transfer to four-year universities, and lifelong learning. FCC emphasizes flexible scheduling including day, evening, weekend, and online classes and strives to meet the diverse educational needs of its community.

The Challenge

FCC faced significant challenges with its legacy budgeting and forecasting processes. Its then current processes relied on a manual, time-consuming, fragmented Excel-based system involving numerous spreadsheets linked together. FCC was in search of a way to provide automated business processes, increased visibility into labor costs (representing about 80% of its expenses), audit/security capabilities, and consolidated data for daily, monthly, quarterly, and its annual Budget Book reporting needs.

Key Objectives

- 01 Replace manual, error-prone spreadsheets with a centralized, automated solution
- 02 Improve auditability and transparency in Budgeting/Forecasting processes
- 03 Enable real-time reporting and reduce cycle times for daily, monthly, quarterly, and annual budget book. This includes labor cost reporting at the Position / Person level of detail
- 04 Lay the foundation for advanced analytics, including course-level performance analysis

Solution

FCC partnered with Sierra-Cedar to implement Oracle Enterprise Performance Management (EPM) Cloud, leveraging the Planning and Narrative Reporting modules. The project began in March and successfully went live in October of 2025. Key solution components included:

- **Centralized Data Repository:** Eliminated redundant spreadsheets and manual consolidation.
- **Automated Integrations:** Nightly refreshes from GL financials and payroll actuals; on-demand HCM labor data imports at the start of a Budget/Forecast cycle.
- **Labor Cost Detail:** Person and Position-level budgeting with real-time updates.
- **Narrative Reporting:** Automation of quarterly reporting and budget book generation.



Client Benefits

- ✓ **Time Savings:** Reduced reporting cycle from weeks to minutes; instant updates reflected in budget books
- ✓ **Improved Accuracy:** Full audit trail for all changes; minimized risk of broken links and manual errors
- ✓ **Enhanced Visibility:** Real-time comparison of budgeted vs. actual payroll costs
- ✓ **Positive Adoption:** Strong client engagement and enthusiasm, including public recognition during a campus town hall

Metrics & Highlights

- **Project Duration:** ~8 months (March–October)
- **Modules Implemented:** Planning, Narrative Reporting
- **Integration Points:** GL financials, payroll, HCM labor data



Client Quote

“Implementing Oracle’s EPM with Sierra-Cedar helped transform our budgeting process from weeks of manual work to real-time accuracy. “

Amy Stake

Associate Vice President for Finance
Frederick Community College

