



Gettysburg College Completes Development of Co-Curricular Transcript and Degree Audit



BACKGROUND

In 1832, Samuel Simon Schmucker founded what would become Gettysburg College. Five years later, the institution moved to land provided by abolitionist Thaddeus Stevens, author of the 14th Amendment, which guaranteed full civil rights to citizens of all states. When the Civil War erupted, the College stood in its midst. Elements of two great armies swept through campus on July 1, 1863, the first day of the decisive Battle of Gettysburg. Pennsylvania Hall became a hospital for hundreds of soldiers from both North and South. Only months later—on November 19, 1863—townspeople, students and faculty marched to hear Abraham Lincoln deliver his immortal Gettysburg Address.

Pennsylvania College became Gettysburg College in 1921. In 1999, Yahoo named Gettysburg one of the nation’s “most wired” campuses. Ranked consistently in the top tier of the nation’s liberal arts colleges, Gettysburg today enrolls 2,700 students in an environment in which there is a student-faculty ratio of 10.7 to 1.

Industry	Higher Education
Services	PeopleSoft custom development and quality assurance
Application & Modules	PeopleSoft Campus Solutions 8.9 (existing) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-curricular Transcript • Degree Audit
Client Since	2008

CHALLENGES

Sierra-Cedar was tasked with the primary challenge of providing the various departments within the College Life Division with the ability to track student extracurricular activities and decentralize data maintenance by creating self service applications for students to update their own activities.

SOLUTION

Sierra-Cedar enhanced the delivered extracurricular activities table by adding three levels of categorization and using these levels to provide administrative security. Each department can only see and maintain the activities that they own. Sierra-Cedar added tables/fields to track activity descriptions, communications, etc. centrally and to display this information via self service. We also added a leadership component that tracks student/faculty who fill leadership roles in activities and used this component to provide updates and communication access through student self service.

Sierra-Cedar designed self service rosters to enable students to view and, where applicable, update their status within activities and provided additional self service functionality to allow students to express interest in specific organizations. We also used the auto email functionality provided in the application to allow communication between students and activity leadership. The final design included two capabilities that can be used anytime during the term: a table driven evaluation/questionnaire process that is linked to extracurricular activities and effective dated and time period driven capability.

RESULTS AND BENEFITS

Executive management of the College is extremely pleased with the end product and the speed with which it was designed and developed. The solution that Sierra-Cedar designed has also provided the following benefits for students and office staff in the Division:

- Data entry in central offices has been reduced to an annual update of leadership and organization descriptions.
- Rosters are now maintained by student leadership online in real time. The campus wireless network allows students to manage rosters from anywhere on campus.
- Students were involved in design and testing of the applications.
- There has been an extremely positive reaction to the project and the product

Gettysburg College is extremely pleased with the Sierra-Cedar solution that provides us with the ability to track our students' extracurricular activities and decentralize data maintenance by creating self service applications. There has been an extremely positive reaction to the project and the product. Sierra-Cedar understood our needs and translated them into a solution with direct benefits to students and staff.

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