

KCTCS Uses Sierra-Cedar's Upgrade Services and Lab to Quickly Upgrade to Oracle's PeopleSoft Enterprise Financial Management Solutions 9.0

BACKGROUND

Since its creation in 1997, Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) has become the largest provider of postsecondary education and workforce training in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. KCTCS has 92,800 students at 16 institutions and 70 locations statewide. KCTCS grants academic and technical associate degrees, as well as diploma and certificate programs in various occupational fields. KCTCS full-time instructors spend more hours in the classroom than other sectors of postsecondary education and 50% of KCTCS faculty members are currently working professionals who bring their wealth of "real world" experience into the classroom. KCTCS offers 600 credit program options.

In 2001, KCTCS implemented Oracle's PeopleSoft Campus Solutions, Human Capital Management System (HCM), and Financial Management Solutions (FMS). Once implemented, they partnered with Sierra-Cedar to host these applications. In 2005, Sierra-Cedar upgraded KCTCS to FMS 8.8; and by the summer of 2006, upgraded Campus Solutions and HCM to 8.9.

CHALLENGES

By 2007, KCTCS recognized the value of important new capabilities that were available in FMS 9.0. The Information Technology staff conducted an assessment to determine what portions of the upgrade they could complete and where they would need external assistance and support.

SOLUTION

To fill these gaps, KCTCS turned again to Sierra-Cedar in October 2007, this time to provide on-site functional consulting, on- and off-site technical consulting and support by the Upgrade Lab. Sierra-Cedar conducted "Delta Fit/Gap" sessions to determine the differences between current functionality and new functionality and technical capabilities available in FMS 9.0. Working together, KCTCS and Sierra-Cedar also evaluated which customizations could be eliminated and which had to be re-applied to FMS 9.0. By March 2008, the upgrade was successfully completed on time and within budget.

Sierra-Cedar also brought in specialized consultants with experience in designing solutions for PeopleSoft Enterprise Performance Management (EPM). These consultants provided guidance in developing the strategy and framework for the EPM solution and building out the data warehouse and reports using the most appropriate tools.



Industry	Higher Education
Services	Upgrade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Functional Consulting • Technical Consulting • Lab Upgrade and Hosting
Application & Modules	PeopleSoft Enterprise Financial Management 9.0 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AR/AP • AssetMgmt • Billing • Budgets • GL • Projects • Purchasing Oracle EPM 9.0
Client Since	2001

RESULTS/BENEFITS

KCTCS now has additional financial functionality and has reduced the number of modifications that have to be maintained. They also have a customized, “desktop-accessible” dashboard of performance metrics enabling the President, other executives, and institutional researchers to monitor the progress of the institution toward achieving its academic, vocational, and community-oriented goals. Because Sierra-Cedar provides full-service hosting of the KCTCS EPM solution and all its administrative applications, KCTCS technical staff can continue to focus on developing unique technical solutions and instructional support.

The combination of Sierra-Cedar’s experienced consultants, hosting capabilities, and upgrade lab provided us with a complete solution to support our current applications and smoothly upgrade to more recent versions of the software. We also are optimizing our investment in our administrative applications by using Oracle’s PeopleSoft EPM solution that Sierra-Cedar also hosts.

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