



Sierra-Cedar Completes PeopleSoft Campus Solutions 8.9 Upgrade for One of the Nation's "Most Connected" Universities

BACKGROUND

Founded in 1870 as one of the first technological schools west of the Mississippi, Missouri University of Science and Technology (formerly The University of Missouri-Rolla) is one of the nation's top technological research universities. As one of the four campuses making up the University of Missouri System, Missouri S&T has 7,500 students (5,650 undergraduate, 1,850 graduate) from 49 states and 51 nations.

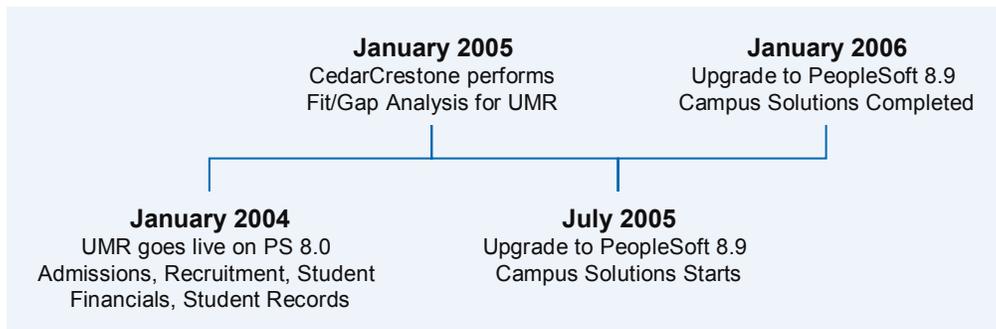
CHALLENGES

The four campuses that make-up the University of Missouri System are all on the same software license, so it is important that each campus adopt the same infrastructure at the same time. In order to stay on course for future PeopleSoft Enterprise environment releases, Missouri S&T decided to perform an upgrade to PeopleSoft's Campus Solutions 8.9 while finishing the initial FA module implementation. The upgrade needed to be planned and executed in less than six months.



University of
Science & Technology

Industry	Higher Education
Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Onsite Upgrade Functional Support
Application & Modules	PeopleSoft 8.0 to 8.9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Campus Solutions Admissions Student Recruiting Student Records Student Financials
Client Since	2005



SOLUTION

The initial go-live implementation of PeopleSoft 8.0 Student Records and Student Financials was in January 2004. The Admit/Recruit module had been upgraded the previous Fall of 2003.

When upgrade scripts for PeopleSoft 8.9 were released, Missouri S&T and the UM System decided to upgrade to the latest available modules. After performing a Fit/Gap analysis, Sierra-Cedar was given the opportunity to guide the upgrade to PeopleSoft Campus Solutions 8.9. Unlike Missouri S&T's initial PeopleSoft module go-lives, the upgrade was done primarily onsite.

Missouri S&T's enrollment has increased from 4,625 to over 5,850 students since the Admit/Recruit module went live in 2000. The larger enrollment and high tech environment of the Missouri S&T campus necessitated accelerated processing speed for everyday campus functions. Since the 8.9 upgrade on January 17, 2006, Missouri S&T has experienced notable improvements in its overall PeopleSoft functionality. The PeopleSoft self service functionality is more user friendly, resulting in a better navigation experience for both students and faculty. There is significantly less traffic on the service counter front lines, specifically when it comes to the registrar, cashier, and financial aid offices. The new framework allows faculty to quickly enter and print off their own grade rosters from anywhere. Student are able to log onto the database to perform such tasks as checking grades and making address changes.

RESULTS AND BENEFITS

The overall project was extremely collaborative. Missouri S&T was the epitome of a dedicated functional client and were 100% onboard with getting things done. Recognizing the need to execute the upgrade efficiently and effectively, Missouri S&T proactively back-filled some of their best people so they could be dedicated to a functional lead role working with Sierra-Cedar's consultants in a separate upgrade work center. The total effort resulted in a successful, on-budget, and on-schedule project.

Missouri S&T has wisely positioned itself to stay in line with Oracle's future release schedule. According to a report published by The Princeton Review and Forbes.com, Missouri S&T was named one of the nation's "most connected" campuses and It is safe to say that Missouri S&T is planning to maintain that distinction.

We were very happy with the collaborative team approach that Sierra-Cedar brought to our accelerated upgrade project. Our consultants did an excellent job in guiding us through the planning, decision making, and training stages of the project. Sierra-Cedar's bench flexibility, emphasis on documentation, and solution-focused planning ensured that our upgrade was successful, on time, and on budget.

Jay Goff

Dean of Enrollment Management
Executive Sponsor for the PeopleSoft
Student Modules implementation.

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