Using Sierra-Cedar's Upgrade Lab Services, Towson University Expeditiously Upgrades Campus Solutions and Human Capital Management Systems in Six Months

BACKGROUND

Founded in 1866, Towson University (Towson) is recognized among the nation's best regional public universities, offering more than 100 bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs in the liberal arts and sciences and applied professional fields. The university is located in the suburban community of Towson, Maryland, eight miles north of downtown Baltimore. With nearly 20,000 students, Towson is the second-largest public university in Maryland. As a metropolitan university, Towson combines research-based learning with practical application. Its many interdisciplinary partnerships with public and private organizations throughout Maryland provide opportunities for research, internships, and jobs. Towson University is a founding member of the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities (CUMU).

CHALLENGES

Towson had an extremely tight schedule of six months to upgrade its PeopleSoft Campus Solutions and Human Capital Management 8.0 systems to 9.0. Towson also had a limited number of personnel dedicated to the project as well as a limited consulting budget to support the upgrade. In addition to these constraints, members of the IT staff were concerned about using a remote Upgrade Lab, with which they had no prior experience.

SOLUTION

Based upon Sierra-Cedar's commitment to meet Towson's aggressive, six-month timeline cost effectively, Towson contracted with Sierra-Cedar to upgrade PeopleSoft Campus Solutions and Human Capital Management 8.0 to 9.0 using Sierra-Cedar's Upgrade Lab. The Sierra-Cedar Upgrade Lab Consultant was sensitive to the issues of the Towson IT staff regarding using a remote Upgrade Lab and made sure all compare reports and database updates were ready for the project team well in advance, so that the test moves, testing, and other upgrade activities went smoothly. Sierra-Cedar met agreed-upon milestones and kept the project on schedule. Sierra-Cedar and Towson project team members worked long hours and weekends to make the go-live.

Industry	Higher Education
Services	**Upgrade Lab** • Account Management • Functional Consulting • Technical Consulting
Application & Modules	**PeopleSoft Campus Solutions 8.0 to 9.0** • Campus Community • Recruitment and Admissions • Student Records • Financial Aid • Student Financials • Academic Advising • Student and Faculty Self Service **PeopleSoft HCM 8.0 to 9.0** • Human Resources • Payroll • Base Benefits • Time and Labor
Client Since	2007

RESULTS/BENEFITS

With this upgrade, the Towson team and Sierra-Cedar consultants replaced an older version of Campus Solutions that was not going to be supported after 2008. The newer version of these applications provided much-needed functionality for Towson, particularly student and faculty self service features. Sierra-Cedar was able to reduce the number of modifications that needed to be maintained by Towson's IT staff, and the IT staff positively acknowledged the benefits of using the Upgrade Lab.

In partnership with Sierra-Cedar, Towson University completed an on-time, within budget PeopleSoft Campus Solutions 8.0 to 9.0 system upgrade. By adhering to the Sierra-Cedar proven and well tuned methodology, the full Campus Solutions upgrade was successfully completed in a very aggressive six-month timeframe, which included a full dress rehearsal one month before actual go-live.

Sierra-Cedar's Lab Consultant worked with Towson resources to manage the full change process. The go-live went so smoothly that Towson was able to release the Lab Consultant earlier than originally planned. The upgrade resulted in a reduced number of modifications that our IT staff need to maintain, and students and staff are experiencing the many benefits of new self-service functionality.

With the professional assistance of the Sierra-Cedar Lab, Towson University resources were freed up to simultaneously focus efforts on preparations for a major PeopleSoft Financials implementation. Sierra-Cedar's Upgrade Lab and on-site consultants provided the level of support and type of expertise that most complemented the capabilities of our staff."

Jeff Schmidt
Associate Vice President, Chief Information Officer

www.Sierra-Cedar.com ● **866.827.3786** ● **Contact@Sierra-Cedar.com**

Sierra-Cedar delivers industry-focused client success by providing consulting, technology, and managed services for the deployment, management, and optimization of next-generation applications and technology.