Green Mountain
Higher Education Consortium
Champlain • Middlebury • Saint Michael's

Significant work is underway as we move towards our first go live on February 9th with Oracle Position Budgeting Cloud Services (PBCS) for all colleges. Within the following 45 days, we will all be live on Oracle Finance and Blackbaud Advancement.

A brief summary of the work underway for the next three months:

User Acceptance Testing

As we prepare for go-lives, there is User Acceptance Testing (UAT) which begins in this week and will end the last week in January. Approximately 90 people will be involved with this process. So what exactly is UAT? It is a standard process used in technology implementations to bring members of the user community in to actually "test" the processes that have been planned and designed over months and months. With hands on the keyboard, each participant will be assigned specific functionalities to test. Using "test scripts" many times over, we work to identify items that don't work the way they should. Carefully monitored and measured, issues are fixed asap for retesting. This helps to lead to a solid solution ready for go-live.

Information Technology

Information Technology, led by each college's CIO, have developed the infrastructure and leadership to support go-live and beyond. Six teams have been created to plan and execute for Security/Network Administration, Database Administration, Integration Services, Service Desk, Document Imaging and Reporting. These teams have representation from each of the colleges and are working collaboratively on a near daily basis.

Data Governance

The Data Governance (DG) Team is in the midst of reviewing data governance tools. These tools help to create standards of definitions for reporting specifications at the consortium level. The DG team has been actively working with the functional areas of Finance, Advancement and HCM/HR on data standards as they work on their design.

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Training, Training, Training

For our Advancement teams, the Blackbaud team will be on-site at each college the week of go-live to train over 100 people who will work in the Blackbaud application. This is additional training beyond which a number of people have participated in over the last six months as we have designed and configured the system.

Over 60 members of our Finance Teams will be taking on-line lessons in preparation for User Acceptance Testing and beyond. We are in the development phase of Training User Reference Guides, Videos and Workshops for end users. Broad user training will begin mid-February.

Training will occur before we go-live, but it will not end there. We anticipate on-going end user training as we work to maximize our technology and ensure knowledge transition and ongoing learning. Look for more details to come in the new year.