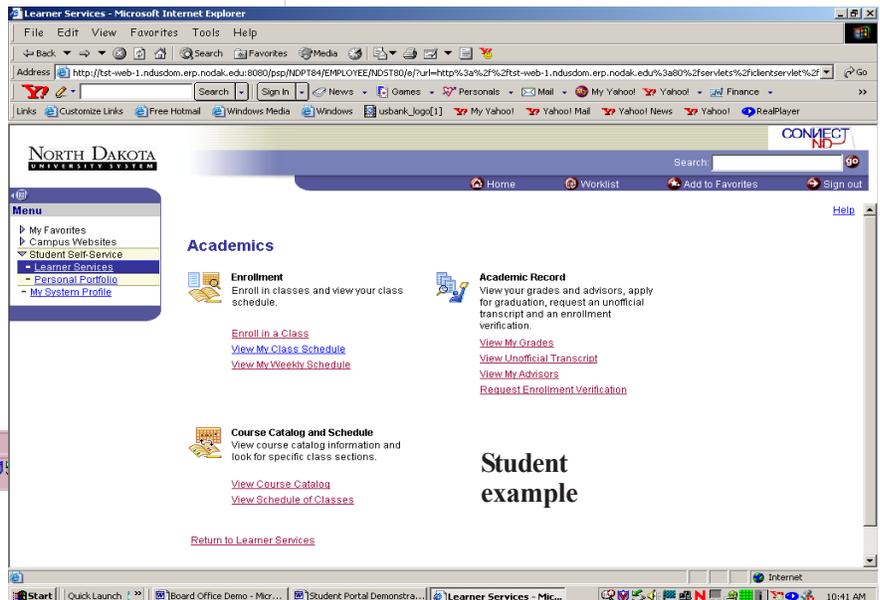
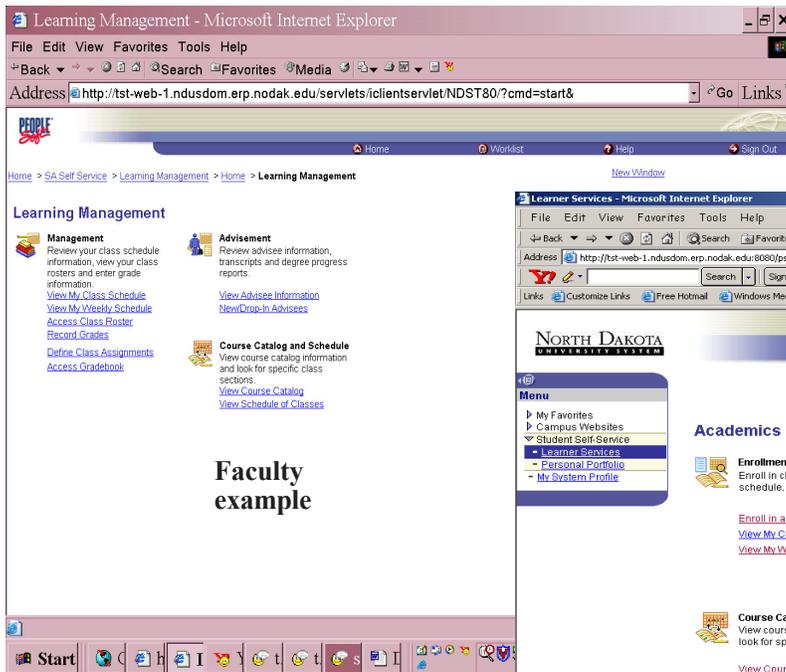


Student and faculty portal sections sampled

Highlights of the enrolled student and faculty sections of the ConnectND portal were illustrated by Tricia Campbell and Charles Fjeld during the Student Administration September presentation and discussion over the Interactive Video Network. In sharing screen shots from the PeopleSoft test environment, both emphasized the self-service benefits. Amy Richter, a North Dakota State University student and member of ConnectND's Steering Committee, also displayed enrolled student screens during a meeting of the North Dakota Board of Higher Education.

Pictured are two examples of the Student Administration System under development. The image directly below provides a glimpse at one screen that enables a student user to access information about classes and schedule, course catalog and sections and information relating to academic record. The left-side image is a view for a faculty member, illustrating a learning management menu showing access to course and class schedules and details, grades and advisee information.



Personal 'hands-on' demonstrations not available at this time

More detailed ConnectND information is being shared as it becomes available but hands-on direct access and personal demonstrations of the new systems can't yet be provided, the Higher Education project team has concluded.

Because of ConnectND's implementation timeline, the just-in-time development, and the just-in-time training, it is impossible to give future users an early personal look at the actual systems they will be using because campus-specific configurations and testing won't be finalized until just before training starts next spring.

In lieu of hands-on access, future users can learn more about ConnectND by participating in the weekly topic sessions (financial, human resources and student systems) over the Interactive Video Network. Those statewide presentations show and discuss how things will work in the systems, and they answer questions. The general project updates, held over IVN the

PowerPoint higher education general overview

Communication staff members have developed a general overview PowerPoint presentation on the ConnectND project suitable for a variety of higher education audiences. This presentation is now available from the ConnectND Web site.

NDUS implementation chairs meeting monthly

NDUS campus implementation team chairs are meeting monthly over the Interactive Video Network to review campus progress, discuss issues and concerns and share solutions.

October / November ConnectND IVN sessions

General updates of the overall ConnectND project are held the second Thursday of each month over IVN, at either 8 or 9 a.m. Monthly NDUS system (Financial, Human Resources Management, and Student Administration) sessions are held on a rotating basis. The upcoming schedule is:

- Thursday, Oct. 9 (8-8:50 a.m.)
—ConnectND Project Update*
- Thursday, Oct. 16 (9-9:50 a.m.)
—NDUS Human Resources Management System
- Thursday, Oct. 23 (8-8:50 a.m.)
—NDUS Student System
- Thursday, Nov. 6 (8-8:50 a.m.)
—NDUS Financial System
- Thursday, Nov. 13 (9-9:50 a.m.)
—ConnectND Project Update*
- Thursday, Nov. 20 (8-8:50 a.m.)
—NDUS Human Resources Management System

Everyone is invited to attend the IVN update sessions. Specific locations are indicated on the [calendar](#).

* **Note:** The general updates are captured and recorded through [webstreaming](#). Use the [video archive](#) to view a missed session at a later date.

Continued from page 1

second Thursday of each month, are also an opportunity to ask questions about ConnectND.

Additional information resources to help introduce and acquaint general users with the ConnectND systems are being developed and will be made available online in the near future. A University System documentation and training committee is coordinating a program to acquaint general users on navigating the PeopleSoft systems with a Web browser and use information through programs like Excel and Microsoft Word.

Each campus now has a ConnectND implementation team with broad representation. The teams meet regularly to help inform their campuses on project development. Also, some interested staff can become directly involved as module leads and subject matter experts. Module leads and subject matter experts also serve as liaisons to their home campuses—they get training, can help to configure their own campus and they gain comfort with the system.

Sessions address specifics

The September IVN session for Human Resource Management Systems focused on procedures to update or “clean up” existing data items in advance of the conversion to PeopleSoft applications. Teri Thorsen, HRMS manager, noted that the value of clean-up was a major lesson learned from personnel at the Mayville and Valley City State University pilot campuses.

The Financials implementation team led a discussion on general ledger set-up and commitment control (budget definition, tracking and control) during the most recent IVN session for Financial Systems users.

The NDUS ConnectND topical presentations and the general IVN updates are transmitted statewide Thursdays, at either 8 or 9 a.m., on a rotating basis. Financials discussions are the first Thursday, project general update the second Thursday, Human Resources Management Systems the third Thursday and Student Administration the fourth.

Collaboration through technology

Pam Sharp, director of the North Dakota Office of Management and Budget, and Ellen Chaffee, president of Valley City State University, will spread the word about ConnectND with a presentation Oct. 9 at the Managing Performance '03 conference in Denver.

Sharp is ConnectND's state project director and Chaffee is a member of the Higher Education Steering Committee. They will be joined by J.D. Williams, PeopleSoft's state and local government director, for the executive briefing titled “E-Government: Using Technology to Improve Government Collaboration.” Governing magazine's annual management conference attracts leaders from all areas of government.

Higher education rollout schedules become more specific

Rollout schedules have been updated for Higher Education's Financial and Human Resource Management Systems. Student Administration is finalizing its implementation timelines and details will be available soon. The project team is refining the overall project plan; therefore, the following time frames are approximate and may vary slightly:

September – October 2003—Fit sessions for Financial and Human Resource Management Systems. This is when all campuses, including the two pilot sites, will determine how their businesses process “fit” with the PeopleSoft software in these areas, including those already implemented at Mayville and Valley City.

November – December 2003—1st cycle configuration and testing for Financial and Human Resource Management Systems as it pertains to each module.

January – February 2004—2nd cycle configuration and testing within Financial and Human Resource Management Systems.

March – April 2004—3rd cycle (project) configuration and testing for Financial and Human Resource Management Systems. In addition, in April, Mayville and Valley City, the pilot campuses, will also begin implementing the new modules of the

Financial and Human Resource Management Systems—this will provide a “pilot” of those modules.

May – June 2004—Regionalized training for the non-pilot campuses for both the Financial and Human Resource Management Systems. Also beginning in May and completing in July, the non-pilot campuses will “go-live” with recruitment and admissions.

July 2004—“go live” on all non-pilot campuses of Financial and Human Resource Management Systems, as well as the final portion of financial aid, student records, and student finance.

From “go-live” **September 2004**, post-production.

Payroll processing studied

The ConnectND Higher Education Human Resources Management Systems team is exploring options for payroll processing. The evaluation will cover processes performed in the core HR, benefits, payroll, commitment accounting and time and labor modules. The resulting report will identify the pros and cons of payroll processing alternatives and compare estimated short-term and long-term cost of centralizing, decentralizing, regionalizing and combination thereof.

The draft report will be submitted to the NDUS Administrative Affairs Council and the Human Resource Council for feedback before it is finalized and a recommendation presented to the ConnectND Higher Education Executive Steering Committee in November. The steering committee asked for the evaluation of payroll processing alternatives.

Payroll processing was studied a decade ago but the software in use limited options. The PeopleSoft HRMS system will bring an increase in flexibility, functionality and information.

Recommendations for users

Based on experience at the pilot sites, the following minimums are recommended for frequent or “power” users of ConnectND PeopleSoft systems:

- **Browser**— Internet Explorer 6 for use with Windows 2000 and XP. Internet Explorer 5 or 5.5 may work on Windows 98, but some problems might be encountered. Internet Explorer 5 on Mac OS 7.6.1 or above
- **Memory**— 256 MB RAM
- **CPU**— 800 MHz
- **Display**— VGA with 800X600 resolution or higher and 16-bit colors

Casual users can access ConnectND systems with other browsers and less than those minimums but will see slower results.

MS Office (Word and Excel) will be used for various administrative functions. Recommendations concerning those software programs will be provided later.

Words & acronyms

Oct 2003

ERP—“Enterprise Resource Planning” System or “Enterprise Resource Package.” Essentially, it means an administrative software system that covers the entire enterprise – from students to employees to financial management. While our current administrative systems (commonly known as the “legacy” systems SAMIS or CICS) were developed long before “ERP” was even thought of, they are essentially our ERP today.

Web-streamed—Recorded live and broadcast real-time via the Internet to those who cannot be at the event location.

About ConnectND

What is ConnectND?

The CONNECTND project is the implementation of *PeopleSoft's* ERP system that will replace North Dakota's current administrative computer systems. The ERP system will serve as the administrative systems for the entire enterprise – from students to employees to financial management.

Who is involved in ConnectND?

All of North Dakota State Government, including the North Dakota University System, is involved in this project.

How is the ConnectND project organized?

The project has been organized by module (functional area) into three state groups (Financial, Human Resources Management System, and Technical) and four higher education groups (Financial, Human Resources Management System, Student Administration, and Technical).

Links mentioned

- **Calendar:** www.nodak.edu/connectnd/index.php?module=PostCalendar
- **Connect ND:** www.nodak.edu/connectnd
- **MAXIMUS:** www.maximus.com/public/virtual/home
- **North Dakota University System:** www.ndus.nodak.edu
- **PeopleSoft:** www.peoplesoft.com/corp/en/public_index.asp
- **Rollout Schedules (these schedules will reflect changes as they occur):** www.nodak.edu/connectnd/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=57
- **State of North Dakota:** <http://discovernd.net/>
- **Video archive:** www.nodak.edu/connectnd/modules.php?op=modload&name=Downloads&file=index
- **Web-streamed:** www.nodak.edu/connect/repository/development/calendar/escalation.pdf

Fyi & updates

What is the current status of ConnectND?

On Sept. 26, 2003, the Project Oversight team continued to reflect the project “schedule” as in a cautionary status, noting that higher education was struggling to fill some staff positions. While that could impact schedule, the overall project appears to be on track. Since the time of the report, those staff shortages have been substantially resolved. The report also noted that a significant number of tasks are overdue and suggested the need to consider modifications in the grants module to address issues that won't be fixed until the new PeopleSoft Version 9 is released in the fourth quarter of 2004.

How is ConnectND being implemented?

Under the leadership of a State Executive Steering Committee (co-chaired by Lee Vickers, president, Dickinson State University and Pam Sharp, director, Office of Management and Budget) and with the help of our implementation partner, *MAXIMUS*, the project is being implemented using a four-component approach.

Components 1 and 2:

These components include the five-phases of Initiation, Design, Development, Migration, and Post-production phases at the pilot sites.

Components 3 and 4:

These components include the five-phases of Initiation, Design, Development, Migration, and Post-production phases at all the non-pilot sites.

When will ConnectND be implemented?

The *ConnectND Rollout Schedules* contain specific information related to these rollouts.

Has end-user training been scheduled?

Project managers are scheduling end-user training using a just-in-time approach, within 60 days prior to implementation. The training can only be done effectively after procedures and process to design, develop and configure the systems have been completed.

Comments and suggestions regarding this publication are welcome. We encourage questions about this newsletter or the project. To facilitate this process, you may ask a question electronically through the Web site *FAQ* (Frequently Asked Questions) section. It's also a place to view the questions others have asked and the responses of the project teams.



More information, questions or comments: www.nodak.edu/connectnd
 Bob Jansen, NDUS Common Information Services Communication Coordinator
 701-231-5805; e-mail bob.jansen@ndus.nodak.edu