

State systems moving toward target dates

The state side of the ConnectND project is on target to meet its revised schedule, as adjusted following the decision to modify PeopleSoft software and replicate the current payroll cycle for salaried employees. Pam Sharp, state project director, prepared the following go-live report for the legislative interim Information Technology Committee:

Financial Systems

- All modules roll out September 2004 except:
- Employee expenses—to pilot agencies in October, gradually statewide in 2005.
- Budget and strategic sourcing modules—to the Office of Management and Budget in December, gradually statewide in 2005.



Curt Wolfe, state chief information officer, presents a state update to the legislative interim Information Technology Committee

Human Resource Management Systems

- Recruit workforce and training administration in July.
- Benefits administration in August.
- Payroll module modifications and development of time entry enhancements in September. E-applications and self-service are also planned for September. Initial introduction of e-applications will be for viewing information. Additional roll-out will include self-service functions such as changing personal information and enrolling in benefits.

Portal

- Base portal out to project team in June, features added and extended to subject matter experts in July, and rolled out to users with added functions in August and September.

'Go-live' schedules for campuses

A detailed calendar of the tentative schedules for testing, training and roll-out of the various modules within the NDUS has been provided to the campus implementation chairs. Tentative "go-live" schedules for most modules of ConnectND in the North Dakota University System:

Student Administration

- Week of June 21—Minot State University, Dickinson State University and MSU-Bottineau.
- Week of June 28—Bismarck State College, Lake Region State College, and Williston State College.
- Week of July 5—North Dakota State University, State College of Science and University of North Dakota.

Human Resource Management Systems—week of July 12.

Finance Systems—week of July 26.

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Readiness report tracking NDUS project

The higher education project is using a ConnectND Go-Live Readiness Report to help measure and monitor progress as implementation approaches.



As the report indicates, ConnectND is working toward go-live in the scheduled timeframe during late June and in July. But with a complex implementation there are defined points along the way to assess the readiness of the software systems and the operational environment, and determine how prepared each of the campuses is.

Grant Crawford, NDUS chief information officer, discusses ConnectND with the interim Information Technology Committee. Legislators are Rep. Eliot Glassheim, left, and Sen. Rich Wardner.

Assessments compiled by campuses following systems testing are considered along with other information to color-code and update a summary readiness chart that breaks down each module by campus. The document has been provided to the higher education Executive Steering Committee and to the campus implementation teams, and is posted on the ConnectND Web site. In addition to providing a readiness assessment, the report also lists courses of action for the project at each of several checkpoints, and the pros and cons of various alternatives.

Decision process

Work is proceeding to go live with university system modules as scheduled. The NDUS Higher Education Executive Steering Committee will meet in Bismarck on Tuesday, June 8, to review all available information and make a recommendation affirming that schedule or to pursue alternatives. That review will consider the Go-Live Readiness Report, an oversight project review, campus comments and professional experience. The Chancellor's Cabinet will make its decision the following day.

Campuses Web sites post local information

Minot State University has now created its own ConnectND Web site: <http://www.misu.nodak.edu/connectnd/peoplesoft>. The University of North Dakota and North Dakota also have sites tailored for campus ConnectND constituents. Like its counterparts, the Minot State site features a variety of resources and links.

Contact information, schedules, meeting minutes the Frequently-Asked-Questions document about the upcoming payroll change are currently featured on the University of North Dakota site: <http://www.und.nodak.edu/cnd/>.

The North Dakota State University site <http://connect.ndsu.nodak.edu/> has several categories of information specific to NDSU's project implementation and more is being added.

Faculty and staff on other campuses may find it helpful to peruse the information on these localized ConnectND sites.

Current status of the ConnectND project?

The oversight team's most current report is on the ConnectND Web site. The oversight team has followed the higher education project team's lead in coding the overall status, schedule and project risk as "yellow," a cautionary status. The status is based on concerns that have arisen including the grants and contracts module and readiness of one campus. Yellow indicates good probability of meeting dates and acceptable quality, although schedule, resource or scope changes might be needed.

Perspective on technology trends

Jesper Anderson, group vice president and general manager of PeopleSoft's Tools and Technology, spoke on the latest trends in technology at the IT Industry Trends Forum, sponsored by the state Information Technology Department Enterprise Architecture in March.

Highlights of Anderson's presentation included discussions on popular operating systems, databases, application servers and applications. He also talked about the initiatives Open Source, Linux, J2EE, and Microsoft.Net.

If you missed this event, you can still view the web cast at <http://www.state.nd.us/ea/forums/>.

June IVN sessions

ConnectND general and topical updates are recorded by the Interactive Video Network through Web streaming. The temporary [video archive](#) is now on the IVN site at <http://streaming.ndivn.nodak.edu/ndivn/>. Click “recorded calls” to locate archived video stream.

The general updates of the overall ConnectND project have been held the second Thursday of each month over IVN. The monthly NDUS system updates (financial, human resources and student administration) have been held on a rotating basis. The 9-9:50 a.m. time has been reserved for the May and June sessions. However, the Student, HRMS and Finance updates may be changed or cancelled due to conflicts with testing and training. Dates and times of the IVN sessions will be announced via the ERP-INFO listserv and posted on the Calendar section of the ConnectND Web site. The tentative upcoming schedule is:

- Thursday, May 27
—NDUS Student System - Cancelled
- Thursday, June 3
—NDUS Financial System - TBA
- Thursday, June 10
—ConnectND - Project Update
- Thursday, June 17
—NDUS HRMS - TBA
- Thursday, June 24
—NDUS Student System - TBA

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

Vision Statement: *The NDUS supports a service-oriented environment where the focus is on providing students, faculty, staff and others access to information and services, at any time, from anywhere.*

Upcoming testing:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Week of May 31 | Iteration 3 testing for NDUS Finance and HRMS modules |
| Week of June 7 | Iteration 2 testing for state Finance and HRMS |
| Week of July 5 | Iteration 3 testing for state Finance and HRMS |

Training will employ various formats

Plans are nearly finalized for ConnectND training with the North Dakota University System. A proposed detailed schedule has been sent to the campus implementation chairs.

Functional training for front-line or primary users of the new Student Administration, Financial and Human Resource Management Systems will be conducted on a just-in-time basis, usually a couple weeks before implementation.

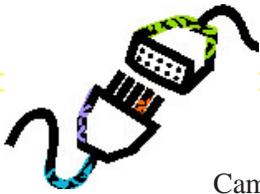
When does formal training start?

- √ Student Administration, which will start rolling out its new systems the week of June 21, has set formal classroom training to begin the week of May 31 in Minot (MiSU, MiSU-Bottineau, WSC) and will continue in Bismarck the week of June 7 (BSC, DSU, LRSC) and Grand Forks the week of June 14 (NDSCS, NDSU, UND).
- √ Training for primary users of Human Resource Management Systems is scheduled the week of June 21 in Bismarck (BSC, DSU, MiSU, MiSU-Bottineau, WSC) and the following week in Fargo (LRSC, NDSCS, NDSU, UND)
- √ Finance System training is planned for the weeks of June 28 in Bismarck (BSC, DSU, MiSU, MiSU-Bottineau, WSC) and July 5 in Fargo (LRSC, NDSCS, NDSU, UND).

Less-formal training?

Detailed training and user manuals are being developed by personnel from the project team and Maximus, the project consulting firm. However, most employees will have more limited involvement with the new systems and may receive adequate training in brief electronic formats such as WebEx demonstrations or other published resources such as those provided on the NDUS Documentation and Training Web site <http://www.und.edu/dept/cndtrain/>. Information about campus access control and help desk operations has recently been added to that site.





NDUS security and access control process

Campus access control officers for Student Administration will be responsible for administering the access control for students on their campus. The local campus help desks will be able to unlock and reset passwords for students. NDUS Help Desk will be able to unlock and reset Student Administration System passwords for students, faculty and staff. For the HRMS and Finance systems, the NDUS Help Desk will create a Remedy ticket for any locked or password resets which will be assigned to the appropriate HECN ConnectND Security staff. (See [additional information on the NDUS Documentation and Training site.](#))

Here are the campus access control officers and alternates for Student Administration (SA), Human Resource Management Systems (HRMS), and Finance Systems (Finance).

Campus	SA	HRMS	Finance
Bismarck State College	Thomas Leno, primary; Kathie Bourgois, Mary Eisenbraun, Karla Gabriel and Jeffrey Jacobs, alternates	Rita Lindgren, primary; Linda Fossum, alternate	Karla Mongeon Stewart, primary; Susan Stockert, alternate
MSU-Bottineau	Paula Berg, primary; Luann Soland, alternate	Anne Bergeron, primary; Jim Borkowski, alternate	Jim Borkowski, primary; Anne Bergeron, alternate
Dickinson State University	Marshall Melbye, primary; Debra Dazell, alternate	Gail Ebeltoft, primary; Victoria Haaland, alternate	Mark Lowe, primary; Alvin Binstock, alternate
Lake Region State College	Toofawn Simhai primary; Edwin Pawlikowski, alternative	Toofawn Simhai primary; Edwin Pawlikowski, Joanne Kitchens, alternatives	Toofawn Simhai primary; Edwin Pawlikowski, Joann Kitchens, alternates
Mayville State University	Cherine Heckman, primary; Lisa Ziegler, alternate	Janice Jorgenson, primary; Shawn Ogburn, alternate	Janice Jorgenson, primary; Shawn Ogburn, alternate
Minot State University	Lisa Haman, primary; Todd Enders, Anne Headrick and Lisa Johnson, alternates	Wesley Matthews, primary; Mark Anderson, Lisa Haman and Todd Enders, alternates	Mark Anderson, primary; Todd Enders, Lisa Haman and Robin Wagner, alternatives
State College of Science	Ramona Breuer, primary	Elaine Wieser, primary; Peggy Torrance, alternate	Keith Johnson, primary; Carla Swenson, alternate
North Dakota State University	Neal Sitz, primary; Deb Ott, alternate	Colette Erickson, primary; Britnee Steckler, alternate	Gary Wawers, primary; Melanie Correll, alternate
University of North Dakota	Connie Gagelin, primary; Lori Hofland, alternate	Desmond Sporbett, primary; Patricia Hanson, alternate	Allison Peyton, primary; Sharon Berning, Lisa Heher and Kathie Howes, alternates
Valley City State University	Monte Johnson, primary; Dan Klein and Ann Thoreson, alternates	William Ament, primary; Ann Thoreson, alternate	William Ament, primary; Ann Thoreson, alternate
Williston State College	Lacey Madison, primary; Jan Solem, alternate	Nicci Strand, primary; Brenda Wigness, alternate	Nicci Strand, primary; Brenda Wigness, alternate

Words & acronyms

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 SAMIS or CICS) were developed long before “ERP” was even thought of, they are essentially our ERP today.

Legacy System—An application in which a company or organization has previously already invested considerable time and money. Examples of legacy systems to be replaced by ConnectND are CICS (used by NDUS staff), ALFI (used by students) and SAMIS (used in state government).

MAXIMUS— Founded in 1975, serves as the implementation partner on the Connect North Dakota Project, and will be responsible for developing an implementation and deployment plan that addresses the major business areas, key agency and campus participants and critical project completion dates.

PeopleSoft— Founded in the mid-1980s, this company builds applications on a client-server platform instead of using the traditional mainframe. This product should provide both the state and the university system with the ability to operate within a real-time environment on a system-wide basis.

WebEX—A licensed program for interactive communication over the World Wide Web and telephone. Sessions can be recorded and archived.

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 CONNECT ND 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).

Fyi & updates

HEUG provides forum for sharing info on PeopleSoft



The Higher Education User Group, a not-for-profit organization, is a source of information from higher education systems and campuses using PeopleSoft products. The HEUG Online Web site <http://www.heug.org/> is used by members to communicate, share and collaborate. HEUG membership is free and open to all employees of schools using PeopleSoft products.

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.

Links mentioned

- **Calendar:** http://www.nodak.edu/connectnd/calendar/index.php?action=show_month&month
- **Connect ND:** www.nodak.edu/connectnd
- **MAXIMUS:** www.maximus.com
- **North Dakota University System:** www.ndus.nodak.edu
- **PeopleSoft:** www.peoplesoft.com
- **State of North Dakota:** www.discovernd.com/

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
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