

'Final Four' live with Finance, HRMS



ConnectND Finance and Human Resource Management Systems are now live on the "final four" campuses. Colleagues and consultants are working together to help staff with their transition to using PeopleSoft. Jeanne Flood of North Dakota State University, at left, gets some pointers from Maximus finance consultant Kari Webb.

The "final four" campuses are now aboard and ConnectND is operational on all campuses with Finance and Human Resource Management Systems. Major milestones were reached when the Finance and HRMS functions went "live" the first week of January at Minot State University, Minot State University-Bottineau, North Dakota State University and the University of North Dakota. The first paychecks were generated with PeopleSoft systems on those campuses for the Jan. 14 payday.

Finance, HRMS and Student Administration systems became operational last summer at seven campuses; the Valley City University, Mayville State University and University System Office pilot sites were activated earlier.

Student systems are being phased in for the final four. Recruitment and admissions functions were implemented there last fall. Those campuses will

begin using the ConnectND financial aid, student records and student financial software programs around the end of May or early June. The project team and the campuses are working out a more specific schedule.

Fall 2005 early registration for continuing students at the final four campuses will use the current ALFI system this spring. New students will register through PeopleSoft.

State government / NDUS discussing ConnectND governance

A working group with representatives from state government and higher education is charged with developing a proposed structure for future governance of the ConnectND project. The group will meet in late January and submit its recommendations to the state and higher education executive steering committees.

State members are Curt Wolfe, Pam Sharp, Nancy Walz, John Wohl and Dirk Huggett. Higher Education representatives are Steering Committee members Alice Brekke, University of North Dakota; Ellen Chaffee, Valley City State University; and Jean Ostrom-Blonigen, North Dakota State University; along with Laura Glatt, assistant chancellor; Grant Crawford, NDUS chief information officer; and Dorette Kerian, HECN-North.

The State Board of Higher Education will have an opportunity to approve the governance structure.

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State government news

Here's some information from the state government side of the ConnectND project:

Expense module planning

The state government project team is planning to deploy the expense module to additional state agencies. The Auditor's Office and Highway Patrol were the pilot agencies where expenses could be entered and processed via PeopleSoft's expense module. The planning phase includes developing project teams, additional requirement gathering and outlining the overall schedule. Go-Live dates are estimated to be in the third and fourth quarter of 2005.

eApp deployment

Two new modules, ePay and eBenefits will be deployed to a pilot group of state agency HRMS users. The view function of the PeopleSoft system will allow approximately 300 users to view paycheck data.

PeopleSoft query

State information technology coordinators are being scheduled for additional Finance systems PeopleSoft query training in February. PeopleSoft query was deployed to a pilot group of state information technology coordinators on Nov. 1, 2004. This will allow agencies to write ad hoc queries against a mirrored production environment without impacting the production system. The query environment is refreshed from production on a nightly basis.

HRMS audit scheduled for February

The State Auditor's Office will conduct a PeopleSoft HRMS audit of the state application in February. A review of security, business processes and run controls are normally performed during an audit. A Financial systems audit will be scheduled later.

PeopleSoft patches/upgrades:

PeopleSoft regularly releases patches that are combined into service packs or maintenance packs. ConnectND staff members apply those releases to the HRMS and Finance systems. The next Finance PeopleTools maintenance will be in February.

ConnectND status report

The biweekly oversight status report (through 1/07/05) coded the overall ConnectND project "green," noting that "Final Four are live and the words for the moment are 'cautious optimism.'"

The report observed that the system is being monitored closely regarding the impact of bringing up the last of the campuses on the Finance/HRMS system. It concluded that "things appear to be going well on the higher education side and reporting remains the primary concern on the state side." A long-term fix to the reporting issues will come through a "tools" upgrade to be completed in February. Meanwhile, short-term workarounds are in place.

The oversight reports are posted on the ConnectND Web site.

Supplemental pay ending

Supplemental pay ends soon for higher education personnel, marking the shift from ConnectND development and implementation to systems operation.

Higher Education's ConnectND Executive Steering Committee is recommending that supplemental pay conclude by Feb. 28, 2005, for committee members and the individuals working on the Finance and Human Resource Management Systems.

Student Administration is being phased in on the final four campuses. Supplemental pay for those personnel ends June 30.

Data Center, administrative and development staff involved with the project will also see their supplemental pay conclude at the end of June.

The committee's recommendation is subject to final approval by the Board of Higher Education. Supplemental pay amounts to 10 percent for full-time work on the project, prorated for less than full time. It is not paid when the commitment level is lower than 20 percent.

Ancillary systems soon operational

As ConnectND becomes operational on all campuses, the first of several ancillary systems will also “go live” in mid February. A housing management program with software from Adirondack Solutions Inc. is being implemented at Minot State University, North Dakota State College of Science, North Dakota State University, the University of North Dakota and Valley City State University. Other campuses may join later.

When fully installed, the Web-based system will be used to make student room assignments and manage other housing operations. A steering committee guiding the housing project is chaired by Michael Harwood of NDSU.

Following housing, a program using the T2 PowerPark System is scheduled to be in place at NDSU, NDSU and UND in early March. PowerPark software manages parking permits, citations, payments, appeals, etc. The steering committee for that project is chaired by Jim Uhler, UND.

NDSU, NDSU and UND are the pilot campuses installing FAMIS software to replace the facilities management portion of the current administrative system. That’s expected to be operational in July, with other campuses and state agencies able to join later. Larry Zitzow, UND, chairs the facilities steering committee.

The ancillary systems will interface with ConnectND’s PeopleSoft software.

Joint research study of ConnectND

If you have received ConnectND training, you are invited to participate in a joint research study of ConnectND (the North Dakota University System’s implementation of PeopleSoft’s Finance, Human Resources Management System, and Student Administration) being conducted by North Dakota State University and the University of North Dakota. The purpose of this study is manifold:

- Determine where (and possibly how) project communication should be targeted to reduce user anxiety and increase user involvement related to the implementation of PeopleSoft (ConnectND) across the university system.
- Establish, via this user survey, baseline demographical measurements related to project communication.
- Conduct, via future user surveys, a longitudinal study measuring demographical changes over time related to project communication and whether communication developed as a result of #1 and #2 was effective.
- Determine whether (and possibly how and what types of) user training reduces user apprehension related to PeopleSoft implementation.
- Establish, via this user survey, baseline demographical measurements related to project training.
- Conduct, via future user surveys, a longitudinal study measuring demographical changes over time related to project training.

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. For more information on this study or to complete the on-line survey, please go to: <http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/gdc/Surveys/gdc121/welcome.htm>

Oracle/PeopleSoft news



Oracle outlines PeopleSoft support

On January 18, 2005, Oracle announced, at an event at its headquarters with more than 17,000 joining by Webcast and phone, how the nearly 50,000-strong combined work force of Oracle and PeopleSoft will provide innovation and support to 23,000 applications customers throughout the world. Oracle CEO Larry Ellison outlined product strategy and vision. The company reaffirmed its commitment to continue supporting PeopleSoft product lines until 2013 and release PeopleSoft Enterprise 9.0. "By retaining over 90 percent of PeopleSoft's development and support organization we can deliver on our commitment to all of our applications customers," Ellison said.

Additional details about the event were included in a letter from Mike Ten Eyck, president of the HEUG (Higher Education Users Group). He reports:

- Oracle will support current and future releases of the PeopleSoft software line through 2013.
- There will be additional PeopleSoft product releases (more version 8.9s in 2005 and version 9.0 in 2006), as well as bug-fixes, maintenance packages, etc. Customers are not being asked to live with "frozen software" over the next nine years.
- All PeopleSoft releases will be able to use the current array of platforms supported currently by PeopleSoft.
- Current and new customers will be able to purchase Oracle, PeopleSoft and J.D.Edwards modules. New customers will be encouraged to buy the Oracle E-Business Suite products.
- However, a new "combined Oracle-PeopleSoft product line" will evolve over the next few years in a major effort called "Project Fusion." This will involve the development of a new Java-based product architecture, data hubs and transaction bases, individual "Fusion" applications (2007) and the "Fusion" suite (2008).
- Oracle wants to inherit "all the good things" from the PeopleSoft/J.D.Edwards products and from the PeopleSoft staff.

For more information about the combined companies and capabilities, visit http://www.oracle.com/peoplesoft/launch_18jan05.html

PeopleSoft talk in Minot

PeopleSoft chief technology officer Rick Bergquist will deliver a special keynote address at the North Dakota Tech Expo, Feb. 10 at the State Fair Center, Minot. Further informational is available at <http://www.ndtechexpo.com>.

**For online information about
ConnectND, click here**



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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