Challenges

- Bring three disparate campuses together seamlessly

- Streamline current processes against budget restraints

- Ensure processes meet the ever-growing expecta-tions of students

Solutions

- Banner® by Ellucian Student

- Ellucian Luminis® Platform

- Banner Finance

- Banner Finanical Aid

- Banner Human Resources

Results

- Seamlessly connected more than 77,000 students across three campus locations

- Reduced total cost of ownership

Banner by Ellucian brings University of Illinois locations closer together

The need to simplify and bring campuses closer together

The University of Illinois has been an Ellucian partner and Banner customer for more than a decade. The university approached Ellucian with a challenge to seamlessly connect its Springfield, Urbana-Champaign and Chicago locations while maintaining the personality of each individual campus. Further, as with most state universities, Illinois is under constant budget pressures to "do more with less" while meeting the escalating expectations of the students.

Challenges

When conducting an audit of its existing systems, IT realized it was spending considerable time and money supporting many individual systems for each campus. Following the assessment, it was clear that their "systems in a silo" approach was no longer sustainable. That recognition brought Illinois to Ellucian in the 2000's. And since then, the university has relied on a single instance of Banner to meet the needs of more than 77,000 students as well as faculty and staff on all three campuses. By supporting only one instance of Banner, the time and cost of IT support is reduced considerably. For example, the staff executes only one – rather than 3 – upgrades. Similarly only one – rather than 3– business continuity and disaster plans are required.

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Intuitive new system brings students/ campuses together

The university places heavy emphasis on the overall student experience. All three campuses share a goal of removing obstacles to student success by making it easy for students to register for classes, track financial aid and easily execute other administrative processes. Banner by Ellucian provides the reliable backbone for this day-to-day, high-volume transactional processing without much ongoing support from IT staff. The self-service applications available in Banner are complemented by the user experience provided by the Ellucian Luminis Platform. The platform lets the campuses create an enhanced user experience for its students and other users, and deliver timely and meaningful communications.

When the university identifies a need for new functionality, staff often find it already exists in Banner. At other times, Ellucian has provided new solutions, like Banner Document Management, that integrate easily into Banner. Another example is the use of Ellucian International Student and Scholar Management at the Urbana-Champaign campus. This campus hosts more than 6,500 international students each year. Each student is required to check in with the university with important security and travel information. Using this software, the university has drastically reduced student check-in time from 2-3 days to a matter of hours.

Administrative staff at all three institutions have gained operational efficiencies by using the best practices in Banner Finance to accurately measure and track tight budgets and make critical decisions in real time. Banner Human Resources provides a cohesive system that helps the campuses manage, recruit and retain integral personnel. Working from a common system also fosters communications and sharing of best practices among the campuses.

"The investment that Ellucian has made in application development tools and knowledge transfer of Banner implementation and maintenance processes to the University of Illinois means that we are able to perform regular upgrades on our own, without costly 3rd party systems integrators. This is a critical aspect to reducing total cost of ownership for us."

Michael Hites
CIO, University of Illinois

Banner is helping the University of Illinois:

- Improve IT efficiencies collectively across three campuses without losing the identify of each location

- Provide reliable, high-volume administrative processes

- Address budget and staffing constraints by making processes more efficient

- Foster better communication and collaboration among departments

The University of Illinois deployed the Banner suite of solutions under the umbrella of tighter budgets and a desire to have less frequent and less costly IT support. The deployment of Banner has provided the university with a low-cost-to-operate and easy-to-maintain solution that has made positive contributions to the student experience while not breaking the bank. Student response has been very favorable and has been used as both a recruitment and retention tool. Further, savings has been measureable in both the bottom line and man hours.

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ABOUT ELLUCIAN
Ellucian helps education institutions thrive in an open and dynamic world. We deliver a broad portfolio of technology solutions, developed in collaboration with a global education community, and provide strategic guidance to help education institutions of all kinds navigate change, achieve greater transparency, and drive efficiencies. More than 2,400 institutions in 40 countries around the world look to Ellucian for the ideas and insights that will move education forward, helping people everywhere discover their futures through learning.

To learn more, please visit www.ellucian.com