



Hartnell College Implements Change and Success

Institutional Change

Hartnell College is a two-year, public institution, located in the California bay area. In 2007, a new, interim president created a major shift in its culture by challenging the institution to run less like a school—and more like a business. This challenge opened many conversations about how to run the institution more efficiently.

Facing this institutional change, Gary Hughes, Associate VP of IT, and others on a committee focused on garnering better efficiency with their spaces. Hughes was tasked with finding a solution for longstanding space ownership and decided to start managing space by data-driven decisions.

After evaluating several choices, Hughes and the committee agreed to implement Astra Schedule, a commercial academic and event scheduling solution. While Hughes appreciates its long-term potential and ability to show graphical representations of calendars and enrollment, Scott Johnson, Workforce Coordinator, appreciates its seamless interface with Datatel R18 and its ease of use. "The system's Windows environment has a familiar look and feel," says Johnson. "It's intuitive even for people who don't use it very often."

Implementing a Solution

Johnson, who led the Astra Schedule implementation, set a goal to implement Astra Schedule in time to run scenarios and optimize the Summer 2008 schedule. Even with very few resources working on the implementation, he was able to attain this goal with the help of Astra Schedule's support services. "Everyone was so good about being available, flexible and helpful," Johnson notes.

Datatel Integration

Hughes appreciated the ease of both the implementation and integration with Datatel R18. "We have interfaces

between Datatel and other systems, and this one is much smoother than the others," he says. "I didn't have to be on the phone for long periods of time trying to make it work."

Campus Acceptance

Hughes knew that if the faculty and staff were to embrace the new system, they would first have to understand the advantages and long-term benefits offered. By sharing information with faculty and staff and making the data transparent, they have been able to show the need for change. Hughes notes that "it's hard to miss giant white spaces on the calendars." Hughes says that by showing colleagues a graphical representation of the data, they better understand the importance of using time and space more effectively in order to offer their students increased access to courses.

Not only have faculty and staff accepted the changes, but they have started to embrace the system for their own use and planning purposes. "The faculty is actually excited to use the system to book rooms and look at past offerings," adds Johnson.

Planning for Success

Looking forward, Hughes plans to continue to improve efficiency by using the event management portion of Astra Schedule, which is the second phase of their project. Although there is not a set date to upgrade, he plans to move to Astra Schedule VII, a 100 percent Web-based application, within the next two years.

With course access such a high priority at Hartnell, Hughes also notes that he is considering implementing Platinum Analytics, which would allow the institution a better understanding of student demand for courses in order to create a well-informed schedule and be prepared with the appropriate resources.



HARTNELL COLLEGE

FOUNDED: 1920

LOCATED: Salinas, CA

ENROLLMENT: 6,057

OFFERING: More than 50 associate degree and certificate programs.



Benefit

"We have been able to demonstrate Astra Schedule's effectiveness to the faculty and address their needs and concerns. Everyone has walked away satisfied."

Scott Johnson
Workforce Coordinator
Hartnell College



Testimonial

"We were suffering from a system in which two or three people on one management level made all the decisions. We want to be a college where decisions are made from data at multiple levels, and we're achieving that."

Gary Hughes
Associate VP of IT
Hartnell College

