

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) ramps up evolution and gets to the next level with Microsoft Project & Teams for Project Management

Transforming Project Management: Transparency - Awareness - Performance

“Over the last several years, we as an organization have really evolved our project management capabilities and abilities. Adding in the M365 suite, Microsoft Project, Power Platform, and PowerBI allowed us to really ramp up our evolution and take us to the next level.

With Innovative-e’s experience, guidance, and the T4PM product, we have successfully implemented a tool that will allow for increased transparency, capacity awareness and overall ability to optimize our project performance”

Kurt Mithoefer

Assistant Vice President – Planning & Value Creation

Powerful products on their own create ultimate value together!



Situation

- Multiple ways of executing projects/efforts and managing performance
- Multiple dashboards for reporting
- No singular location for all project/effort reporting comprehensive with strategic alignment
- Many template/artifact variations
- Looking for a way to improve capacity management
- Looking to improve transparency and alignment across all requests to project executions

Solution



Implemented and extended Microsoft Teams & Project Online (POL) using Innovative-e's Teams for Project Management (T4PM), a Power Platform and Dataverse application. Future plans call for using T4PM's integration with Project for the Web.

- Allows 100s of potential stakeholders to participate
- Enhanced project intake process incorporating a Canvas App to accept project requests, stores in the Dataverse where they are trackable and reportable
- Sends a Teams flow card to the department managers which are responsible for first level approvals. Initial approval is done by the department manager. Strategy scoring is embedded for strategic alignment. The request then goes to the approval committee for approval, rejection, or re-work.
- 'Does the magic' — Once approved, a project in Microsoft Project Online is created using an automated workflow that allows for assignment of the PM from AD, creates the project site and project Team and assigns the PM as the owner.
- Standardized Teams structure for managing projects, collaboration, risks & issues without project owners having to do any of the setup work.
- Standardized POL projects are created and include the meta data from the initial intake forms and department approval flow card

Solution (continued)

- Established a P-BI dashboard that articulates and visualizes the information whatever stage it's in:
 - Project request
 - Project discovery to be scheduled (i.e. backlog)
 - Active Project Dashboard
 - University-wide roadmap component showing all work being done and all that is to be done

Benefits

- Increased university-wide view of what others are trying to do (create a common thread across departments)
- More efficient and transparent project intake – centralized location for ideas and concepts, where before it was managed by department
- Provides leadership awareness of where resources are focused and what work is coming up (starting to build) top to bottom university priority list
- Helps employees with capacity management via visibility into what's coming up at high level and 'tent staking' for future project initiatives
- Easier to manage project data resulting better information for decision making and less time managing the data (issues, risks, meta data) in project summary space
- PMs have one experience and much less overhead vs multiple manual updates in different tools (Excel, screen shots, etc.)
- People work the way they want and get the results the business needs in the area that is best suited to them: PMs in Project Online, Department owners and others in Teams.

Southern New Hampshire University

SNHU is a private, nonprofit institution with an 88-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 150,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approx. 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as the "Most Innovative" regional university by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high-quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner. Learn more at www.snhu.edu

