

## The Finance Function of the Future

Part 1: Introducing the Hallmarks of Effective Strategic Finance Teams

## Part 2: Building Central Data Infrastructures to Support Strategic Decision Making

Part 3: Maximizing Operating Efficiency and Expanding Long-Range Financial Planning

Part 4: Embedding Analytical Support in Academic Decision-Making and Providing Just-in-Time Consultation on Unit Planning and Strategy

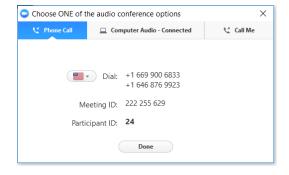
**Business Affairs Forum** 

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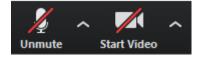


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## The Finance Function of the Future, Part 2



#### **Today's Presentation**

2 Building Central Data Infrastructures to Support Strategic Decision Making

**Trend 1:** Executive-Level Data Governance Oversight

**Trend 2:** Data Refinement for Academic Program Analysis

**Trend 3:** Business Intelligence Teams

**Trend 4:** Academic Financial Dashboards

#### Archived on EAB.com

1 Introducing the Hallmarks of Effective Strategic Finance Teams

#### **Future Webinar Sessions**

3 Maximizing Operating Efficiency and Expanding Long-Range Financial Planning

Tuesday, April 15

4 Embedding Analytical Support in Academic Decision-Making and Providing Just-in-Time Consultation on Unit Planning and Strategy

Thursday, May 9

#### The Finance Function of the Future



#### Promising Innovations in the Migration from Transactional to Strategic Work

Infrastructure Supports Strategic **Decision Making** 

**Central Data** 

Trend 1:

Executive-Level Data Governance Oversight

Trend 2:

Data Refinement for Academic Program Analysis

Trend 3:

**Business** Intelligence Teams

Trend 4:

Academic Financial Dashboards

**New Technology** and Org Models Maximize Operating **Efficiency** 

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Long-Range **Financial Plans Consider Future Revenue Threats** 

**Professionalized** Staff Support Ongoing **Academic** Resource Planning and Strategy

**Central Finance** Provides Just-in-**Time Consultation** on Unit Planning

Technology-Driven Planning Process Redesign

Trend 6:

Trend 5:

Scaled Budget and Planning Services

Trend 7:

Financial Modeling and Scenario Planning

Trend 8:

Functional Redesign to Expand Budget and Planning Scope

Trend 9:

Embedded Analytical Support in Academic Units

Trend 10:

Financial Upskilling Programs for Academic Stakeholders

Trend 11:

Metric-Driven Intervention in Unit Performance Issues

Trend 12:

Internal Financial Consulting Teams



# Hallmark 1: Central Data Infrastructure Supports Strategic Decision Making

HALLMARK

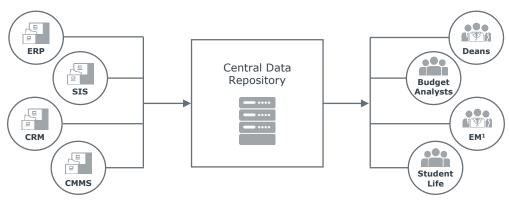
- Trend 1: Executive-Level Data Governance Oversight
- Trend 2: Data Refinement for Academic Program Analysis
- Trend 3: Business Intelligence Teams
- · Trend 4: Academic Financial Dashboards

## Realizing the Promise of Big Data



Optimal Data and Analytics Infrastructure Bolsters Strategic Decision-Making

#### Simplified Illustration of High-Functioning Institutional Data Ecosystem



#### **Advancing Strategic Goals Across Campus with Centralized Data and Decision Support**





Enrollment Pipeline Management



Targeted Student Advising





Course Margin Analysis

## Barriers to Data-Driven Decision-Making



#### **Challenges to Utilization Span Data Life Cycle**



- Data recorded at insufficiently granular level to inform decisions
- Staff input data inconsistently, using different definitions

#### **Aggregation**

- Units use shadow systems to conduct analyses and store data outside of main data infrastructure
- Data resides across systems that are not integrated with one another

#### **Analysis**

- Staff struggle to efficiently access data from systems
- Leaders lack skillsets to analyze data for decision-making

#### **Supporting Systems Integration Efforts**

- **Integration** is the process by which diverse technologies are enabled to communicate. IT divisions follow a technical process to execute integration projects (i.e., no observable trends)
- CBOs play critical roles in IT project success by dedicating operational expertise to IT projects to align outcomes with campus needs
- For more information on the CBO's role in supporting campus-wide integration efforts, download our <u>Integration Leadership Brief</u>

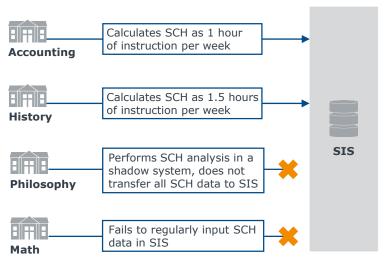


## Garbage In, Garbage Out

Distributed Staff Input Data Inconsistently, Use Different Definitions

## Simplified Illustration of Department Staff's Process for Recording Student Credit Hour (SCH) Data in Student Information System (SIS)

#### **Academic Departments**



#### Central Finance



#### **Budget Analyst**

- Produces reports with unreliable data
- Unable to locate missing data points
- Unknowingly makes "apples to oranges" comparisons

## 10

## A Prerequisite to Data-Informed Decision-Making

Data Governance Critical, But Often Undermined by Poor Collaboration

#### **Components of Effective Data Governance**

#### People Staff vie

Staff view data as an enterprise—not unitspecific—resource and comply with data policies

#### Data Governance

#### **Policies**

Campus-wide standards to define, collect, and store data

#### **Procedures**

Continuous processes to improve data quality and review existing policies

#### Most Common Data Governance Failure Path: Committee Breakdown

- Campuses on their second or third attempt at establishing effective data governance systems cite committee breakdown as leading failure path
- Common causes of committee failure:
  - Committees focus too much on planning rather than execution
  - Members lack accountability for attendance
  - Members stop going to meetings or send delegates too junior to make decisions





#### Dual Committee Structure Ensures Both Vision-Setting and Execution

#### **Bicameral Data Governance Committee Characteristics**

	Strategy Committee	Implementation Committee
Role	Direction-setting, signal value	Execution
Composition	VP- to AVP-level staff from IT, Provost's office, CBO's office, Registrar's office	AVP- to director-level staff from IT, Business Intelligence, and cross-functional data stewards
Size	5-10 leaders	12-20 staff
Time Commitment		
Agenda	Vision: What areas of the university may benefit most from better data?	Data Definitions: What should the definition and security level for these terms be?
	Progress: What has the data governance committee done since the last meeting,	Term Requirements: What standard terms do we not have that are causing problems?
	and what should they focus on until our next meeting?	Data Stewardship: Are the right people in data stewardship roles across campus?

## Getting the Right People in the Right Seats

#### EAB Resource Guides Committee Composition

#### **Guide to Selecting Committee Members (excerpt)**

Institutional Office	Strategy Committee	Implementation Committee
Academic Affairs	Provost	AVP Planning AVP for Student Success
Business Intelligence	Director of Data Governance	Director of Data Governance Director of Business Intelligence Data Architect
Finance and Administration	Chief Business Officer	AVP of Finance AVP of Facilities Budget Director
Human Resources	VP of Human Resources	Director of Human Resources Payroll Manager HRIS Manager
Information Technology	Chief Information Officer	Information Security Officer Director of Information Technology
Institutional Research	Director of Institutional Research	Associate Director of Institutional Research

Download the full Guide to Selecting Committee Members <a href="here">here</a>.



## Designating a Data Governance Standard-Bearer

#### Select Institutions Creating Chief Data Officer Roles to Steward Efforts

## Summary of the Chief Data Officer Role Core Duties

- · Leads data definition creation
- Coordinates data governance meetings
- Oversees data quality processes
- · Develops data management policies
- Oversees the design of the data warehouse or data lake and data integration
- Encourages use of BI for decision-making and strategic planning

#### **Desired Attributes and Skillsets**

- Experience with data architecture, data management, and development of data governance
- Strong communication skills for both executivelevel and technical implementation discussions

#### **Estimated Salary (USD)**

\$125K-165K

#### CDO Role Growing Quickly Across Sectors

15+

Chief Data Officers in higher education in 2018









~250 Chief Data Officers working globally in 2014

Download the University of Rochester's CDO position description <a href="here">here</a> and the University of Wisconsin's CDO position description <a href="here">here</a>.

## In Search of the Holy Grail

#### CBOs Struggle to Obtain Academic Cost Data to Perform Margin Analysis

#### **Granular Academic Cost Data a Top CBO Desire**



"I have a lot of questions about college, department, and program-specific costs. But the way this data is collected, I can't calculate the actual cost of providing education."

Chief Financial Officer

PRIVATE RESEARCH UNIVERSITY



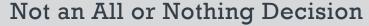
#### **Barriers to Obtaining Program-Level Cost Data**



Accounting systems configured for record keeping and financial reporting, not decision support



Faculty costs difficult to record at activity-level





Full Chart Overhauls May Be Necessary, But Lower Effort Approaches Exist

#### Two Approaches to Update Chart of Accounts (COA)

Approach	Benefits	Sample Institution
1 Full Overhauls	Refined Reduced Improved Data Cost Data Audit Risk Governance	RUTGERS  IN STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY
Review and upgrade of entire COA, including elimination of obsolete fields and addition of new fields		2-year process to create COA that records transactions at department, location, and activity-level
2 Targeted Refinements		O UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
Selective addition of fields to track certain metrics at more granular level (e.g., faculty		1.5-month process to add fields for payroll data for tenure- and

non-tenure-track faculty

and tenure status)

payroll data by program type

## Learning from the Private Sector



ABC<sup>1</sup> Models Enable Course Margin Comparisons, But Challenging to Apply



#### **Activity-Based Costing (ABC)**

A private sector cost accounting practice that identifies and assigns costs to overhead activities and then assigns those costs to products

**Quantify and Allocate** 

**Indirect Costs to Courses** 

#### Applying ABC in Higher Ed

**Quantify and Allocate Direct Costs to Courses** 





- Course Development
- Grading

Examples:

Teaching



- Registrar
- IT



Sample analyses informed:

- Course capacity
- Course offerings
- · Faculty workload
- Program growth or contraction



Difficult to assign direct costs to academic activities



Innumerable indirect costs outside of faculty control



Does not account for instructional quality or disciplinary nuances

## Better Data, But at a Price



UCR Makes Big Investment in ABC, Others Question ROI

## UCRIVERSIDE Activity-Based Costing Model

#### ABC Implementation in One Academic Unit



Integrates data from 6 data systems



Calculates course-level cost data through 6 faculty activity categories and 5 indirect cost pools



Provides course-level margin transparency for curriculum planning



Yields program-level margins for growth planning

## Implementation Requires Significant Investment in Technology and External Support

1.25

Years to implement for College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences (1 of 7 units)

\$1.4M

External fees to Grant Thornton, Pilbara Group, and Deloitte

Other UCs Reconsider

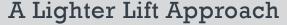


**UCMERCED** 

"...it would not be possible to deploy the actual system at the department level. Rather, a Central Office would need to be staffed and trained to respond to department data requests by manually extracting the requested data..."

UC Office of the President's Report on Activity-Based Costing Pilots

Source: Anguiano M, "Cost Structure of Post-Secondary Education: Guide to Making Activity-Based Costing Meaningful and Practical," December 2013; "Activity-based Costing Pilot Studies Final Report." University of California. April 2018: Business Affairs Forum interviews and analysis.





#### Indirect Cost Allocations Less Precise than ABC, But Easier to Deploy

#### Alternative Approach: Program-Level Indirect Cost Allocation

- Resource allocation principles translate to developing methodologies for internal performance analysis
- Allocates indirect costs, but does not direct instructional salaries
- Less precise than ABC, but easier to build, administer, and understand

For more information on indirect cost allocation methodologies, download our Aligning the Budget Model to Strategic Goals study here.

#### Supporting Indirect Cost Allocation Methodology Design



#### Better Data Does Not Mean Better Decisions



#### Leaders Need Analytical Support to Access and Interpret Data

#### The Data-Driven Decision-Making Formula

#### **Data**

- Central data repository houses clean data
- Financial systems collect all data at a level of granularity that enables insights



#### People

- Unit leaders have access to data needed to make decisions
- Leaders supported by staff with advanced analytics and data visualization skills



#### **Decisions**

- Leaders make decisions based on data, not instincts
- Stakeholders reach consensus on decisions more quickly

#### Data-Driven Decision Support Requires a New (and Expensive) Type of Staff

Legacy Data Staff: Programmer



Emerging Data Staff: Business Intelligence (BI) Analyst



24%

Data Analyst job posting growth (2013 H2-2016 H2)

\$80K

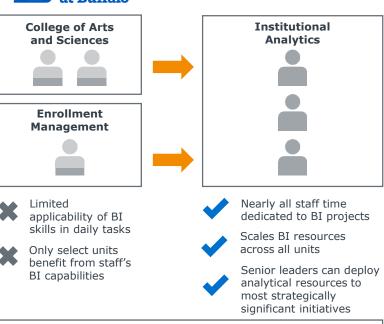
Average BI Analyst base salary



## Centralizing Existing Analytical Resources

Buffalo's Central Business Intelligence (BI) Center Scales Staff Skills

## University at Buffalo Creation of Office of Institutional Analytics



#### Central BI Team's Early Impact

- Providing analytic support for key academic and administrative initiatives
- Creating 20+ dashboards for financial decision-makers, spanning space, HR, student, and financial metrics
- Producing data visualizations in Tableau (e.g., student enrollment by program) to enhance decision support
- Training academic and administrative leaders on BI tools to drive data adoption

■ Time spent on BI activities¹

■ Time spent on non-BI activities¹



## Reallocating IR Resources to BI Activities

Shifting IR from Reactive to Strategic Reporting

#### Comparison of Institutional Research (IR) and Business Intelligence (BI) Teams

	IR	ві
Function	Produces static reports using validated data only	Exports and analyzes data from live systems, conducts advanced data analysis
Constituencies	Internal (e.g., deans) and external (e.g., Department of Education, US News & World Report)	Internal only
Staff Profiles	<ul><li>Data analysts</li><li>Statisticians</li><li>Data entry roles</li><li>Report writers</li></ul>	<ul><li>Data scientists</li><li>Business analysts</li><li>Statisticians</li><li>Computer programmers</li></ul>
Opportunity	Standardize and automate processes to deploy existing resources to analytical tasks	Expand impact by leveraging IR skillsets, tools, and reputability

## Early IR Transformations



#### Select Institutions Rebranding Functions and Evolving Responsibilities



#### Institutional Research and Kentucky Advanced Analytics Office Creation

Initiation

Revamped Staff

New Brand

Retirement of VP of IR created opportunity to consolidate IR and BI into 15-FTE analytics team

Reshaped roles into data scientists, data developers, and business analysts

Office renamed Institutional Research and Advanced Analytics

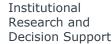
#### Results



- \$180K in annual salary savings
- Reversed IR's reputation as the "data gatekeeper"
- Enhanced capacity to leverage data tools to support student success initiatives

#### Other Institutions Merging IR and BI



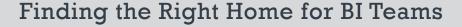




Strategic Analytics and Data Management



University Analytics and Institutional Research





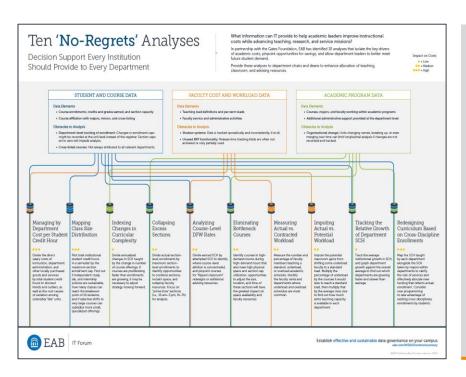
#### **Considerations for Positioning Business Intelligence Functions**

Office	Indicates Promising Placement	Indicates Consideration of Other Placement
IT	<ul><li> IT has strong campus brand</li><li> IT leaders have analytical backgrounds</li><li> Nascent warehousing efforts</li></ul>	<ul><li>IT seen as a commodity</li><li>BI strategy focused in one area</li><li>Analytics infrastructure is self-sustaining</li></ul>
СВО	<ul> <li>BI strategy focused on administrative operations and strategy</li> <li>CBO and Provost closely aligned on BI strategy</li> <li>Finance and administrative staff possess analytical skillsets</li> <li>IT and/or IR report to the CBO</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Finance and administrative leaders lack analytical backgrounds</li> <li>IT and IR siloed in other administrative divisions, collaboration unlikely</li> </ul>
Provost	<ul> <li>BI strategy focused on student success, teaching and learning, and/or research</li> <li>Strong analytical resources and leadership in existing IR office</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Academic and/or IR leaders lack analytical backgrounds</li> <li>Academic resistance to sharing analytical resources with administrative units</li> </ul>



## Decision Support to Provide to Every Department

#### EAB's "No-Regrets" Analyses a Helpful Starting Point for BI Initiatives



#### EAB's Ten "No-Regrets" Analyses

- Foundational academic data analyses for BI teams to run
- Analyses isolate key academic cost drivers and savings opportunities
- BI teams should provide analyses to department chairs and deans to enhance resource allocation decisions
- Download the infographic <u>here</u>



## Equipping BI Teams with Emerging Data Tools

#### Institutions Selecting from Two Types of Central Data Repositories

#### **Comparison of Central Data Repositories**

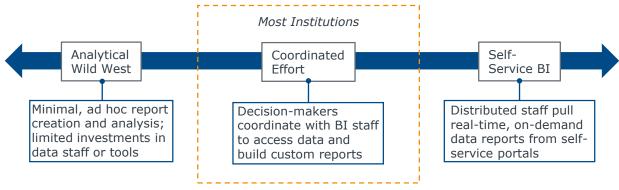
	Data Warehouse	0101 1100 1111	
Definition	Central data repository created by integrating various data sources into a common format or model	Central data repository created by copying data directly from the source without adjusting the format	
Data Format	Data pre-formatted for specific queries	Unformatted data provides flexibility to manipulate source data	
User Skills Required	Data analysis, querying	Data science, computer programming, data analysis, querying	
Use Cases	Answer a specific, defined question (e.g., how much did history department spend on tenure-track faculty salaries last year?)	Configure data without a specific question in mind (i.e., developers experiment with raw data)	
Sample Vendors	<b>@</b> ellucian. SQL Server	<del>ழிட்ட</del> ே splunk>	
	ORACLE SAP HANA	HORTONWORKS SOOK	



## A Necessary Step Toward BI Maturity

Dashboards Provide Immediate Benefits, Foundation for Self-Service Reports

#### **Spectrum of BI Maturity Across Higher Education**



#### Three Reasons to Build Interim, Manual Dashboards



May not have data infrastructure to support self-service for ~5-10 years



Provide the foundational metrics and visualizations for future self-service platforms



Drives staff data adoption needed to optimize future self-service tools

## Learning from Early Movers



#### Select Institutions Sharing Compelling Unit Financial Data with Academics

## Profiling Best-in-Class Academic Financial Dashboards

Coordinated Effort



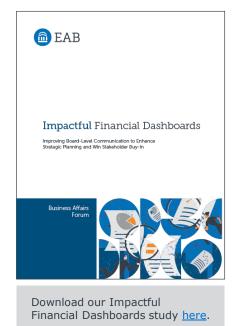
- 1 Stevens Institute of Technology
- 2 Carnegie Mellon University

Self-Service BI



3 UC Berkeley

## Supporting Executive Dashboard Construction





## **Example 1: Stevens Quarterly Reporting Package**



	Historical Data		
Object Level Name	FY16 Actual	FY17 Actual	Original Budget
xpense Budget			
Academic Salaries: Full Time	2,700,000	2,550,000	2,700,000
Academic Salaries: Director Fees	30,000	65,000	27,000
Academic Salaries: Adjunct	67,000	121,000	134,000
Academic Salaries: Extra Teaching	103,000	66,500	12,000
Academic Salaries: Summer Pay	46,000	133,000	150,000
Total Academic Salaries	2,946,000	2,814,500	3,023,000
Administrative Salaries: Full-Time	458,000	432,000	435,000
Administrative Salaries: Part-Time	69,000	89,000	81,000
Administrative Salaries: Stipend	78,500	44,500	88,000
Total Administrative Salaries	605,500	565,500	604,000
Student Wages: Graduate Stipend	1,400	-	
Student Wages: Graduate Wages	-	1,000	-
Student Wages: Undergraduate Wages	14,000	16,500	10,000
Student Wages: Tuition Remission	-	-	
Total Student Wages	14,400	17,500	10,000
Benefits	950,500	1,100,500	1,200,000
Total Compensation	4,515,900	4,498,000	4,837,000
Financial Aid	250	3,000	3,000
Advertising	70	2,000	
Communications	12,000	13,500	13,500
Hospitality	31,000	30,500	16,000
License & Fees	3,000	(16,000)	2,000
Other Expense	19,500	25,000	65,000
Purchased Services	40,000	25,000	20,000
Rentals	8,000	9,000	8,000
Repairs & Maintenance	14,500	9,500	4,000

Download Stevens Institute of Technology's dashboard <u>here</u>.



## Quarterly Dashboards Build Financial Literacy

#### Stevens CBO Uses Reporting Packages to Augment Unit Budget Awareness

#### **Dashboard Quick Facts:**

- Produced and distributed in PowerPoint
- 12-14 pages long

- ½ day to 1 day to create
- Unit heads discuss data with CBO in quarterly meetings

#### Sample Dashboard Metrics and Data Points

- Year-to-date budget vs. actuals and actuals for two previous fiscal years by expense category
  - · Faculty, staff, and student salaries and benefits
  - Financial aid, advertising and communications, hospitality, purchased services, maintenance, contracts, supplies, travel
- Year-to-date budget vs. actuals by cost center
- If applicable, separate budget vs. actuals report for auxiliaries and centers within units (e.g. Finance Lab within the School of Business)
- · List of year-to-date budget adjustments
- · Year-to-date spending on restricted gifts and endowments
- · List of all open purchase orders
- Preview of budget proposal for upcoming year (Q3 only)
- Anticipated RCM results and unspent funds that will rollover (Q4 only)



#### **Key Dashboard Features**



Salary data broken out by type (e.g., full-time, part-time, fees, stipends)



2 years of historical budget data allows for currentyear comparison



Space to customize reports with unitspecific metrics

## Example 2: Carnegie Mellon's Financial Schedules

#### Carnegie Mellon University



Download Carnegie Mellon University's dashboard here.



## Financial Schedules Drive Budget Accountability

#### CMU Uses Dashboards to Solicit Unit Responses on Results and Plans

#### **Dashboard Quick Facts:**

- Created in Excel4apps
- 14 pages long

- · Published to file sharing site
- Updated twice per year

#### Sample Dashboard Metrics and Data Points

- Summary P&L's¹ for prior-year actuals, current year budget, current year forecast, and upcoming year budget for 5 funding sources
  - Undergraduate and graduate tuition, financial aid, and discount rate
  - Sponsored projects, gifts, endowment distribution investment income, and auxiliary revenue
  - · Faculty, staff, and student salaries and benefits
  - Supplies, services, facilities, and operating costs
  - Internal transfers (10 categories)
- Operating expense line-item detail for current year budget forecast, including a variance calculation
  - Line-item detail for supplies, services, facilities, and operating costs
- Salary actuals by month by salary type and funding source, compared to prior years, upcoming year budget, and current year forecast

### Carnegie Mellon University

#### **Key Dashboard Features**



Dynamic reporting in Excel4apps enables drilldown to transaction-level



Salary data visualized in line charts



Downloadable templates standardize budget reporting across units

## Example 3: UC Berkeley's Cal Answers





University of California, Berkeley's Self-Service Business Intelligence Platform, "Cal Answers"

#### **Features**

- Self-service analytical tool accessible to staff, faculty, and students
- Centralizes all university data in one location (under the motto "One Question, One Answer")
- Contains premade reports and data visualizations to support common tasks and answer one-off inquiries

#### Cal Answers Data Sources

9 data sources provide 7 years of historical data:

- FRP
- Student Information System
- HR
- Finance

- Advancement
- Procurement
- · Enrollment Management
- · Financial Aid
- Accounts Receivable

Years to build initial system in phases

~\$2M

Annual costs for staff salaries to maintain system



Click <u>here</u> to access Cal Answers web portal.



## Returns on a Major Investment



#### Cal Answers Streamlines Reporting, Advances Campus Data Awareness

#### **Faculty and Staff Use Cases**



#### **Faster Reporting**

- Tool expedites report production for most commonly requested management reports, such as department course instructor report
- Academic leaders use reports to expedite course and workload planning



## **Enhanced Planning Decisions**

- New access to academic data allows curriculum analysts to readily evaluate student demand for course offerings
- Analysis informs strategy to set upcoming academic schedules



## New Insight Into Student Needs

- Access to demographic data enables new analysis of student demographics, revealing a high share of lowincome students in one college
- College responds by introducing programs to reduce supplemental costs for low-income students

#### **Benefits Extend Beyond Enhanced Decision Support**

- Self-service capability reduces ad hoc questions to central finance team
- Super User trainings increase quantity and quality of queries
- Centralized data and reporting improves quality and accuracy of reports for state legislature

#### **Contact Information**



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#### **Evaluating Today's Session**



Please take a minute to provide your thoughts on today's presentation.

#### **Upcoming Webinars in This Series**

Maximizing Operating Efficiency and Expanding Long-Range Financial Planning Tuesday, April 15, 2019 | 2:00 PM ET - 3:00 PM ET

Embedding Analytical Support in Academic Decision-Making and Providing Just-in-Time Consultation on Unit Planning and Strategy

Thursday, May 9, 2019 | 1:00 PM ET - 2:00 PM ET

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