

# Case Study Series: UNIX Practice

## ■ Solution Overview: College Information System

**Industry:** Higher Education

**Products & Technologies:**

Various Sun workgroup servers; E450, V880, V240, L8, and L9 tape drives; T3 storage unit

**Client Description:**

Fifty-eight campus community college system located across 100 counties of the State of North Carolina.

**Business Problem:**

The community college system had been running an extremely old ERP application that had not kept up with increased demands of growing enrollment, and lacked functionality of more current software. Reporting capabilities were also limited, creating frustrations for departmental management.

**Solution:**

Over a period of three years, Alphanumeric Systems teamed with ACS/Datatel on a joint effort to replace the administrative and academic computing application for each of the 58 campuses. Alphanumeric provided Sun hardware and configuration; ACS/Datatel provided the Colleague application along with its installation and support. Alphanumeric's Project Managers worked alongside project managers from the State's central office for the

community college system to assure that all systems were configured to the same standard that was required for installation of the Colleague application. Initial configuration was conducted in Alphanumeric's Configuration Center prior to shipping each system to the customer's site. Upon arrival of the hardware, Alphanumeric's Sun engineering team traveled to the campus to complete the onsite portion of the installation.

A minimum number of Sun hardware configurations, or bundles, were offered to customers in order help the central office drive standards and simplify post-installation support. As a result customers have reported satisfaction from increased processing and storage capability of the new Sun equipment. Users also state that they enjoy the increased functionality of the new application over the older system, and have noticed an increased adoption rate among faculty and staff as a result of this.

In addition to automating core accounting and academic functions, this system also has the option of integrating web-based registration, e-procurement, and bookstore management functions.

**Contact Information:**

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