What is ConnecTECH?

ConnecTECH is a joint venture between Texas Tech University and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center over the next 3 years to replace and upgrade our legacy administrative computer applications used by students, faculty, and staff with a newer suite of products. The current administrative applications that will be replaced are TechSIS and Financial Aid (Student systems), TechFIM (Financial Accounting system), TecHRIS (Human Resource system), TechPAY (Payroll system) and the Budget Systems.

Texas Tech University System purchased a suite of products called "Banner" from SunGard Higher Education that will become the new student, financial aid, accounting, human resource, payroll and budget systems. Also purchased from SunGard were Luminis Premier, which includes a Portal and a Content Management System, and reporting and data warehousing products Operational Data Store (ODS) and Enterprise Data Warehouse (EDW). All of these products work together to provide a seamless unified digital campus solution.

Learn More About Banner Finance!

Banner Finance provides an integrated foundation for consolidating transactions and reporting through a portal and Web browser. This allows secure access to financial information at any time and from any location. Central staff and Departmental business managers can make strategic decisions in a timely manner because the data is up-to-the minute and comprises financial activity from all sources. Centered around a flexible chart of accounts structure, Banner Finance includes core internet processes for procurement, accounts payable, fixed assets, journal entries, budget development as well as Sponsored Research Accounting.

Visit the ConnecTECH web site at http://www.texastech.edu/connectech/ where you will find project organization charts, a list of the Banner suite of products, a projected timeline, project milestones and FAQ's. You will also find links to SunGard Higher Education website and links to other Banner related sites.

HSC Finance and Administration also has a Banner information web page at http://www.fiscal.ttuhsc.edu/bannerfinance/ where you will find training documents, schedules, announcements and a means for comments, concerns and questions.

Watch both of these sites for further development.
What is the HR Co-Op?

The Human Resources, Payroll and Budget Offices are working together to combine three separate systems (TecHRIS, TechPAY, and Budget) into the Banner HR system. TTU and TTUHSC representatives of each of these areas have formed the HR Co-Op to facilitate this implementation. This group meets every Friday morning to discuss homework from the training sessions, implementation timeline, potential process changes, and goals for a successful implementation.

The HR team has attended several training sessions since the first of the year. This training has been focused on system set-up, how to map data from our current system, and near and dear to everyone’s heart….how to run a payroll.

This system implementation will provide each of us an opportunity to expand our vocabulary with Banner lingo. New terms that you will be hearing in the near future include Employee Class, or E-class for short, and Position Class. Stay tuned for more information on these key elements of the HR system.

The implementation date for the HR system is December 2008. All paychecks dated 2009 will be processed from the new system.

Have Banner Comments or Suggestions?

We are requesting your comments about financial reporting, processes, policies, or any other aspect concerning the current or new finance system. Please visit the following link!

www.fiscal.ttuhs.edu/bannerfinance/comments.aspx

Implementation Timeline

Finance:
Sept 08 - GO LIVE!
• New chart of accounts
• New budget revision process
• New purchasing process
• New reporting
• New cost transfers

Student:
Oct 08 - GO LIVE!
• New admissions system

Spring 09
• New registration system
• New system for recording grades
• New student billing

Summer 09
• New Financial Aid Process

Human Resources:
Dec 08 - GO LIVE!
• New employee self-service
• New PAF process

ConnecTECH Kickoff at the Regional Centers

The Banner Finance core functional teams from Budget, Finance, Human Resources and Student took their show on the road with ConnecTECH Kickoff Events at El Paso, Amarillo and Odessa. Now we won’t mention the fence climbing episode or the setting off of alarms, but all in all through the wind, rain and snow, the Banner team prevailed.

Laree Bomar showed glimpses of the new financial program’s self-service capabilities and laid out the proposed chart of accounts. You can view Laree’s Power Point presentation at http://www.fiscal.ttuhs.edu/bannerfinance/training.aspx - look for “Banner Chart of Accounts”.

Mike Crowder reviewed the scope of the ConnecTECH project and touched on some of the programs that will be utilized. Finance, HR and Student areas presented their proposed timeline for the project implementation.

It will be important to keep the communication lines open during this project, so comments are welcome and encouraged. There is a dialog box located on the Fiscal Affairs – Banner Finance website - http://www.fiscal.ttuhs.edu/bannerfinance/ - select “Comments”. You can also sign up to receive updates and communications – select “Subscriber List” to be included in any future announcements or disclosures.

Oh yes, there were prizes! Lots of door prizes and decorations! Sher- alyn Mathison with the Budget Office did a great job putting together the decorations, goody bags and door prizes.

Hopefully everyone in attendance came away with a positive outlook of the new integrated financial accounting software package and is looking forward to moving into Banner from the Budget System, TechFIM, TecHRIS, TechPAY and TechSIS!

Lubbock Campus Kickoff

If you missed the June 2006 ConnecTECH Kickoff at Jones Stadium—You have another opportunity. Watch for upcoming details for the Lubbock Campus Kickoff!
ConnecTECH Kickoff at the Regional Centers Con’t

Left: Each campus was provided with a Buffet-style lunch. During the lunch the COA team, and representatives from Human Resources and Student Services were available to answer questions in a less formal setting.

Right: After the Chart of Accounts presentation, Dee Ortiz and many others responded to questions in El Paso. Reporting needs were once again discussed and answers to important questions and concerns were addressed.

Right: Laree Bomar the Financial Systems Training Manager for HSC concluded her Chart of Accounts presentation with a discussion and Q&A session in Odessa.

Below: Lesley Wilmeth, the Director of Budget, wrapped up the Kickoff in Amarillo. Her budget team was instrumental in providing the door prizes and decorations for the event.

Left: Jean Haynes from Amarillo Pharmacy Practice won one of the many prizes in the door prize giveaway. Many other door prizes were given away at each of the campuses.
What is the Chart of Accounts?

The Chart of Accounts is the integral element that connects all the systems used within Banner such as the Student System, the Human Resources System, and the Finance and Budget system. It utilizes a numbering system to capture financial transactions. Although we don’t use the term ‘chart of accounts’ in TechFIM, TechFIM’s account numbers, revenue, sub-revenue, object, sub-object and balance sheet codes accomplish the same goal as the Banner chart of accounts. There are six elements that make up the Banner COA and they are referred to as the FOAPAL which stands for fund, organization, account, program, activity and location. These six elements will provide the same if not more information as our TechFIM codes. This new COA will facilitate the retrieval of information for end-users and for financial reporting by organizing the financial information in ways to better isolate relevant data. It also captures more details in defining transactions. This will help generate more useful reports for administrators, campuses, departments, clinics, and functional team users. As you learn more about Banner, you will become more familiar with the chart of accounts and the FOAPAL. However, for those of you excited to learn more now, please visit http://www.fiscal.ttuhsce.edu/bannerfinance/.

COA Development Communication

The development of a new Chart of Accounts (COA) began Jan 06 and continues to evolve. The team developing the COA has depended greatly on input from every level within the HSC organization. The following is a recap of the many events and trainings that the COA team has conducted. At each event, input and suggestions were requested and received.

Before beginning the development of the COA, the Finance and Administration team traveled to each of the regional centers in Jan 06. They met with administrators to discuss current as well as future financial reporting needs.

Jan 12, 06 the first public announcement of the implementation of a new integrated suite of web-based administrative applications was made at the Quarterly Finance and Admin update meeting.

Feb 06 Budget office staff traveled to the regional centers to conduct Budget Web-Prep training. They discussed the upcoming financial system implementation and asked for input for reporting needs and restructuring needs within departments.

Mar 23, 06 Approximately 200 subscribers to the Banner Finance web site received an e-mail notifying them of the site which includes a request for end-user reporting and/or process input.

May/June 06. The core finance team attended COA development and set-up training led by SunGard Higher Education consultants. The team worked through the summer and early fall developing the COA and attending additional Banner Financial System training.

Oct 16, 06 The finance functional team presented a proposed COA to Mike Phillips and his admin staff. Reporting needs and organizational structure were discussed and the team asked for additional input and feedback.

Oct 27, 06 The finance functional team invited representatives from the Schools of Medicine, Nursing, Allied Health, Pharmacy, and the Graduate School, including regional centers to a catered meal and a COA presentation. There were break-out sessions and proposed organization structures where distributed. Each Area was given instructions to define their organization and return to Lesley Wilmeth.

Nov 2, 06 The Banner COA was presented at the monthly School of Medicine’s Administrators Group meeting. A Q&A session followed the presentation. The team asked for input and suggestions for organizational structure. This meeting was also TechLinked to the regional centers.

Jan 12, 07 The Banner COA was presented to the HR and Finance Programming teams from TTUS, TTU, and the HSC. A Q&A session followed the presentation.

Jan 22, 07 At the finance and Administration’s Quarterly Update meeting the Banner COA was presented and followed by a Q&A session. The meeting was TechLinked to the regional centers and requests for input were made. The COA presentation was published on the Finance and Administration’s website.

Week of Feb 12, 077 representatives of the finance functional team traveled to the regional centers along with representatives from Budget, Human Resources, Payroll, and Student Services to hold a “Kickoff” for our Banner System implementation. Administrators from all areas were invited and refreshments were provided. The finance team presented the Banner COA and followed it with a discussion of reporting needs. The team also encouraged input about reporting needs. A ConneCTECH Kickoff presentation and discussion was held which included a request for questions and input from the attendees. Also covered was the implementation timeline and additional software to be utilized with the Banner System.