Case Study

VanderCook College of Music

As America's only college devoted solely to preparing music teachers, this private, liberal arts college in Chicago offers just one degree — music education — at the undergrad and graduate levels.

Vigorous continuous education program offers specialized classes for working teachers year round

When it comes to preparing the next great generation of music teachers, VanderCook College of Music stands alone. VanderCook has consistently been the leader in practical preparation of band directors, choir directors, orchestra directors and general music teachers for more than 100 years. Yet when Dr. Charles Menghini was appointed president of the college in 2004, nearly all administrative functions were done by hand using paper and ink. True, an adjunct professor had developed a database program using 4th Dimension Software to create class lists, grade reports and transcripts.

And though the college's "look" was somewhat professional, data required multiple keystroke entries. "We were a labor-intensive operation, teaching students to lead the musicians of the 21st century while our operations were using the tools of the 19th century," Dr. Menghini said.

At the president's direction, VanderCook administration began discussions and decided to look for automated solutions. "We decided we wanted an integrated computer system, one that would help to standardize and simplify many of our daily tasks," Dr. Menghini said.

Students, faculty and staff needed access to information on an "as-needed" basis instead of an "as-available" basis, thus removing the necessity of relying on a person to provide the information.

VanderCook's faculty and staff committee reviewed at least five programs, including Blackbaud, EDC Technology and EMPOWER, but the decision to select CAMS Enterprise was unanimous. CAMS Enterprise is the only totally integrated, Web-native academic ERP system with everything in one place for the entire student lifecycle — admissions through alumni relations. CAMS Enterprise removes all barriers to success seen with conventional systems.

"What impressed us most about CAMS Enterprise was Three Rivers Systems' interest in us. We didn't invest in just an integrated academic ERP for our college, we invested in a relationship, one where we feel that we have a support network to help us think through and make our operations more efficient. From the point of sales, through our initial training, through the annual CAMS user's group meetings, we have become better and better at using CAMS," Dr. Menghini said.

Graduate Dean's Assistant Peter Berghoff agrees. "I've attended several CAMS Connect users conferences and always find them very valuable. The special-interest sessions are especially excellent, and I learn things I can use immediately," he said.

"At VanderCook, we think, like a musical instrument, the more you practice (use) it, the better you can perform with it. We can see the progress we've made, and we can see the unlimited potential of this system," Dr. Menghini concluded.

About VanderCook College of Music

Founded in 1909, VanderCook College of Music is a private, liberal arts college in Chicago and is the only college in the country solely specializing in the training of music educators. Students may pursue a Bachelor of Music in Education, Master of Music in Education and Master of Music in Education and Certification. The college is located in a Mies van der Rohe building on the campus of Illinois Institute of Technology. VanderCook is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, the National Association of Schools of Music and the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

About CAMS Enterprise

CAMS Enterprise's disruptive technology makes it a fundamentally different academic ERP unlike all others that were designed for the past and are incapable of operating efficiently in the modern world. CAMS Enterprise is an easy-to-use and implement, totally integrated, Web-native management system with everything in one place — admissions; student information; financial aid; student services; fiscal management with HR and payroll; fund-raising; alumni relations; document management, learning management, a full suite of portals, and more for managing the entire student life cycle. With an out-of-the-box configuration and self-service customization, CAMS Enterprise removes all barriers to success seen with conventional systems. CAMS' affordable licensing, off-the-shelf configuration and easy implementation translate into the lowest total cost of ownership of any academic ERP while yielding the quickest and highest ROI.

Source: *VanderCook College of Music*

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