May 13, 2022

Dear Colleagues:

Over the past three weeks, many of you have been involved in multi-day presentations by potential vendors for our Enterprise Resource Planning/Student Information System Shared Services. Thank you for committing your attention to this important phase of our project. I know it’s taken a huge amount of time. I’d like to bring you up to date on where we are.

Recently, the presidents of the partner colleges formed a nonprofit called CHESS, the Collaborative for Higher Education Shared Services. The partners are Clovis Community College, Central New Mexico Community College, Northern New Mexico College, San Juan College, and Santa Fe Community College. With this organization in place, we will be guiding the ERP/SIS initiative and raising funds to support its implementation.

This is an amazing and a unique initiative. Our colleagues have been working for many months with their counterparts at our partner colleges to identify business processes that will best serve our students and streamline our administrative operations so that we can all focus more on supporting our students and one another.

Now that the vendor presentations are completed, the Evaluation Team will review all of the information and the feedback received from students, faculty, and staff. They will make a recommendation to the CHESS Board of Directors, who will make the final decision on our vendor partner. Accordingly, we continue to ask everyone to refrain from responding to any vendor questions in order to protect the integrity of the selection process.

We plan to have everything in place so we can launch the first phase this fall. Depending on the vendor selected, this is our draft implementation timeline:

* + August 2021 – January 2023: Finance/HR/Payroll
  + July 2022 – August 2024: Student Services (Admissions, Financial Aid, Curricula & Scheduling, Registration & Records, Continuing Ed, Workforce Training, etc.)

Our thanks to everyone who participated in the vendor finalist demonstrations and to our evaluators whose work continues. We look forward to working together in the coming months to implement this important project.

Sincerely,

CHESS Board Members

Presidents at CNM, CCC, NNMC, SFCC