

CHESS Connection



April 2026
Issue 1

Congratulations to Our Newest CHESS Superstar!

Congratulations to Terence Garcia, LCC!

TERENCE GARCIA
LCC

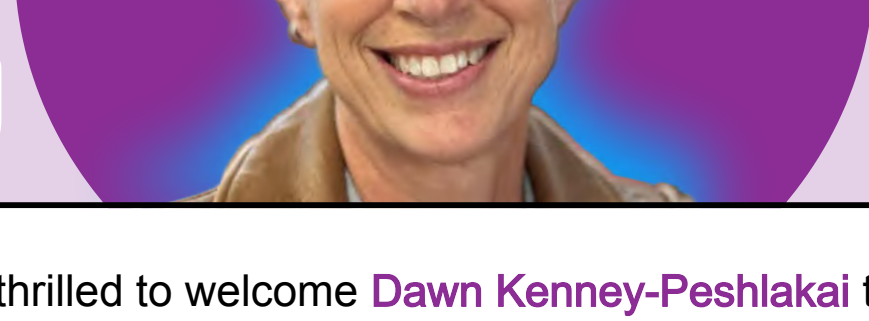
Terence was nominated by Amanda Nelson, LCC Marketing & Events Coordinator. Amanda stated:

"Terence is very dedicated to helping with CHESS. I asked for someone to take the lead in writing an article about CHESS in the Luna Light and he volunteered to take the lead."

Terence also serves as LCC College Lead for the Workday Student (SIS) Curriculum Management & Academic Advising project implementation team.

CHESS Superstars are individuals on project implementation teams, member college employees, or CHESS employees who are recognized based on the CHESS Values of Collaboration, Honesty, Equity, Sustainability, and Student Success.

Welcome to the CHESS Team!



We're thrilled to welcome **Dawn Kenney-Peshlakai** to CHESS as our new Data & Analytics Consultant. Please join us in giving Dawn a warm and enthusiastic welcome to the CHESS team!

Be Heard: Complete the Readiness Survey!

Beginning April 9, many of our CHESS member colleges invite all staff and faculty to participate in the Workday Student (SIS) **Readiness Survey**. This is an opportunity to share impressions about the implementation of Workday Student (SIS) and upcoming changes.

The survey results will help the project team assess your awareness of the Workday Student (SIS) Project and your readiness for the transition to Workday Student. It will also identify opportunities to strengthen communication, training, and change management efforts across our institutions. The survey will run through April 17.

* Participating colleges are sending the survey link and instructions to your email. It will take about five minutes to complete, and all responses will be anonymous.

Your voice is essential. Your feedback directly shapes organizational change management and training planning and improvements across the Workday Student project.

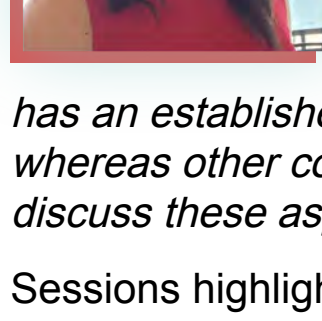
* Participating colleges include CCC, CNM, LCC, & SFCC.

CHESS Team Engages in Dialogue at HECC Conference

CHESS team members and partners participated in the **Higher Education Collaborative Conference (HECC)** on March 12–13 at Anderson University, South Carolina, joining peers from across the country to share insights and learn best practices in the Workday Student (SIS) implementation.



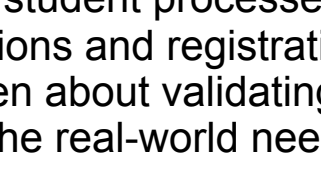
Across multiple sessions, a consistent theme emerged: **successful transformation requires not only strong technology, but also thoughtful communication, governance, and change management strategies that keep students and employees at the center.**



According to Erica Keppel, CHESS Lead Functional Project Manager for Workday Student, "The conference demonstrated the strong performance of the CHESS colleges. Several colleges within the same implementation timeline are in Workset C (Architect and Configure), and CHESS has successfully completed the Architect and Configure (A & C) phase. Additionally, CHESS has an established governance structure that ensures alignment, whereas other colleges that are already live are only beginning to discuss these aspects."

Sessions highlighted practical approaches that align closely with CHESS's current work. Presenters shared strategies to improve clarity, consistency, and user experience. Additional discussions focused on what's available for in-system help and creative ways to support students through milestones such as program completion. These insights reinforce CHESS's ongoing efforts to design an intuitive system that is student-friendly and aligns with the individual needs of each of our member colleges.

Celebrating the Completion of Workset D: A Major Milestone for Workday Student



Workday Student (SIS) implementation teams are about to reach an exciting milestone in the Workday Student (SIS) project with the successful completion of Workset D. This phase marked the conclusion of Customer Confirmation Sessions (CCS) and a critical period of End-to-End (E2E) testing, where functional and technical teams worked together to ensure that key student processes operate seamlessly from start to finish. From admissions and registration to tuition calculation and beyond, Workset D has been about validating that the system performs as designed and supports the real-world needs of our member colleges.

This achievement is a testament to the dedication, expertise, and collaboration across all functional and technical workstreams. Teams have invested countless hours testing scenarios, identifying improvements, and refining processes to ensure accuracy, integration, and reliability. Their efforts have not only strengthened the system but also built a foundation of shared knowledge and expertise that will be carried forward into future phases. The commitment to collaboration and problem-solving continues to be a defining strength of the CHESS initiative.

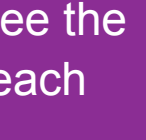
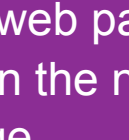
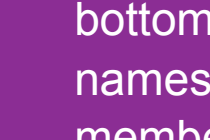
As we move into the next phase of the project, momentum is strong, and the vision is clear. The work completed in Workset D positions CHESS and its member colleges for continued progress toward implementation and ultimately, a more connected and efficient student experience.

Congratulations to everyone involved. Your hard work is making a lasting impact, and this milestone is one to celebrate.

Workday Student Change Agents Wanted

Click [here](#) to fill out the Change Agent Volunteer form.

Unify. Empower. Streamline.



Congratulations to the new Workday Student Change Agents who have already been selected!

A complete list of the new Workday Student Change Agents can be found [here](#). The names are at the bottom of this web page. To see the names, click on the name of each member college.

CHESS Jobs



Now Hiring

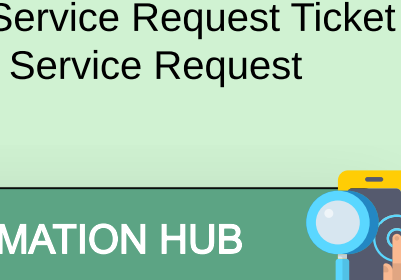
Organizational Change Management (OCM) Workstream Lead

Join our team and make a difference—now hiring!

[View our open positions at chess.edu](#)

Quick Access to the Technology Support Hub

The **Technology Support Hub** is located within the Member Hub on the CHESS website. The pull-down menus will quickly get you to the right information. Use the buttons below to get the information you need most!



SERVICE REQUEST HUB

- Create a New Service Request Ticket
- Follow Up on a Service Request

- Scheduled Maintenance
- Tenant Management
- Current Outages (Coming Soon)

TENANT INFORMATION HUB

REPORTING HUB

- Top Reports by Functional Area
- Reporting Tips & Tricks

Your Feedback Is Important!



We want to hear from you—yes, you!

Whether you've got brilliant ideas, helpful suggestions, or just want to give CHESS the Squirrel a virtual high-five, this is your chance to speak up. Your feedback helps us make CHESS even better for everyone. So go nuts and drop us a line—CHESS'S all ears (and tail)!

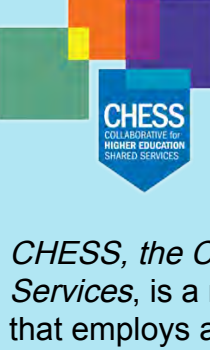
[CLICK HERE TO LEAVE FEEDBACK](#)

Contact CHESS

Do you have any questions? Do you have suggestions for new stories?

CONTACT:

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CHESS Communications
karen.grandinetti@chess.edu



The **CHESS Connection** provides news about CHESS and our Workday Enterprise Resource Planning and Student Information System projects. Please feel free to share.

CHESS, the Collaborative for Higher Education Shared Services, is a nonprofit comprised of member colleges that employs a unique approach to transform the student experience and streamline administrative operations through state-of-the-art technologies. Mission: All Together is the CHESS initiative to launch Workday.