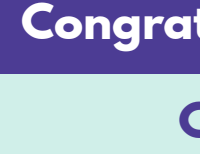


CHESS Connection



May 2026
Issue 2

Congratulations to Our Newest CHESS Superstars!

Congratulations to Snow Nguyen, Adrienne Hill, Carolyn Dwyer, Michael Montoya, and Brad Moore!



SNOW NGUYEN
CNM

ADRIENNE HILL
WORKDAY

CAROLYN DWYER
WORKDAY

MICHAEL MONTOYA, LCC
(Not Pictured)

BRAD MOORE
CNM

Snow was nominated by Nick Morosco, CNM, and Shelley March, Workday.

Nick stated, "Snow has been instrumental in keeping Salesforce development momentum strong as we approach formal testing. Snow's ownership of a series of complex integrations has been key to keeping the team aligned and on track. That accountability has built real confidence that we'll be ready for a successful MTP1 go-live."

Shelly wrote, "Snow has learned how APIs work for both Salesforce and Workday very quickly since the start of creating Prospect and Application integrations together with Workday on the Student project. It is a joy to work with Snow, she understands the technologies well, and I wanted to recognize Snow for her amazing communication and collaboration!"

Adrienne has been recognized by Erin Lunderville, Workday. Erin stated:

"Adrienne has always been a superstar on the CHESS project, but she recently returned from maternity leave and immediately hit the ground running as if she never left! While I was finishing up Adult Education work, Adrienne kept the Academic Foundation and Student Records team moving forward without skipping a beat. Adrienne has been making valuable contributions to our team since day 1, but I especially want to recognize her recent extra efforts to carry the load and close out Workset D. She makes hard work look effortless and I am continuously thankful to have her as my teammate!"

Carolyn was nominated by Lenora Neu, CNM. Lenora stated:

"From day one of the Student implementation project, Carolyn has worked tirelessly with everyone in our technical and functional workstreams to ensure our data was extracted and loaded as efficiently and completely as possible. She has led our Data Conversion team through numerous mapping sessions, remapping sessions, validation sessions, crosswalk building sessions, post-load inquiries, and multiple requests for tweaks, with a calm confidence that gave us the same certainty that our data conversion would meet expectations, as well as our needs. Her patience and her unflappable ability to take us from those hair-on-fire moments to the serene assurance that our data was in good hands. I can't say enough about how much she is appreciated."

Michael was nominated by Alicia Rendon, CHESS. Alicia said:

"Michael Montoya of LCC has been attending Recruiting/Admissions meetings and has done a commendable job of keeping his team focused on all the recent project activities. Michael is a dedicated advocate for LCC, and through his active engagement, we have seen steady progress for LCC. Thank you, Michael, for your willingness to participate, ask questions, and ensuring LCC is running with the pack!"

Brad was nominated by Karen Grandinetti, CHESS. Karen noted:

"I am pleased to nominate Brad Moore of CNM as a CHESS Superstar for his exceptional collaboration during a critical phase of the Workday Student project. Brad has been a strong partner in communication planning and execution, ensuring that the needs of all member colleges are clearly supported. His contributions to the SIS OCM/Communications Team enable timely, accurate information sharing for knowledge transfer across a complex and fast-moving initiative. Through his proactive and collaborative approach, Brad has strengthened project coordination and built confidence at a pivotal moment, making a meaningful and lasting impact on the overall success of the Workday Student implementation."

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.



Attention Crew: This is a Mission Control Briefing

Workday Student Mission Control Briefings

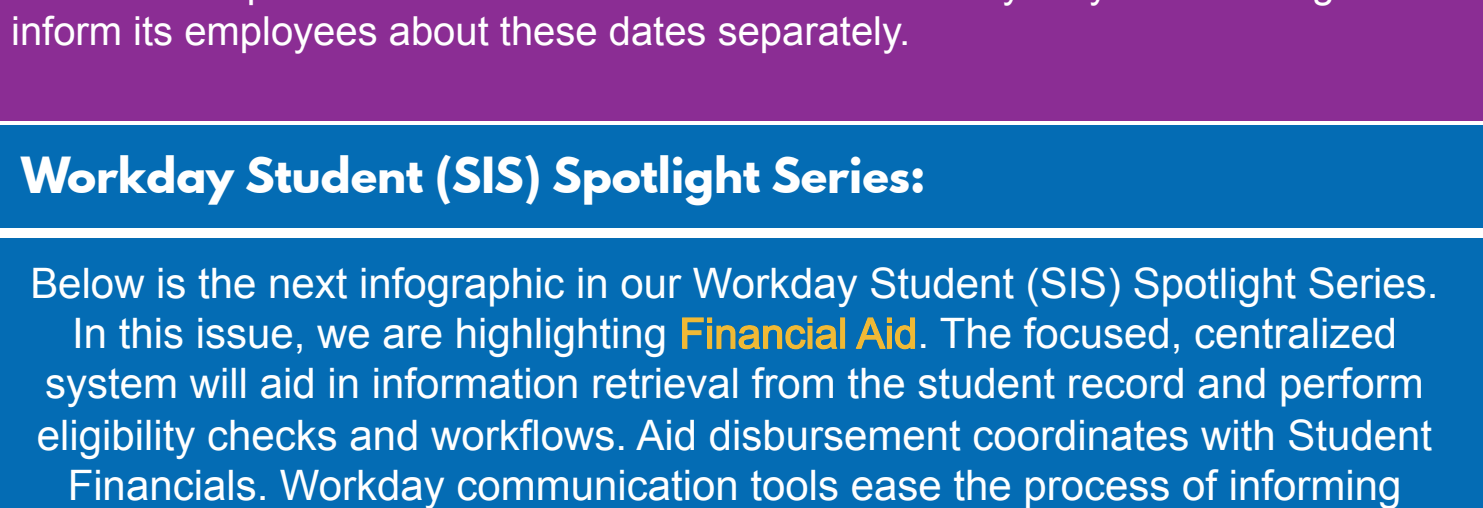
This briefing is part of our new **Mission Control Briefings** series, designed to keep faculty and staff informed and prepared as we approach Move to Production 1 (MTP1) - the first major "Go Live" milestone in our Workday Student implementation.

The Workday **Customer Readiness Review (CRR)** is a checkpoint to help CHESS colleges assess their preparedness for upcoming project milestones, informed by the Customer Readiness Survey. The Customer Readiness Review results will highlight what's going well, where there may be challenges, and what needs additional attention. Project leaders from across CHESS review these insights together to align priorities, address risks, and help ensure each institution is positioned for a smooth and successful transition.

Watch for new **Mission Control Briefings** in future editions of the CHESS Connection. Next month, we'll take a closer look at the Pre-Production Build.

Stay tuned and check out our **Key Project Dates** timeline below.

Workday Student Key Project Dates



Note: Although all colleges share the same Move to Production (MTP) dates, the dates when specific functionalities become available may vary. Each college will inform its employees about these dates separately.

Workday Student (SIS) Spotlight Series:

Below is the next infographic in our Workday Student (SIS) Spotlight Series. In this issue, we are highlighting **Financial Aid**. The focused, centralized system will aid in information retrieval from the student record and perform eligibility checks and workflows. Aid disbursement coordinates with Student Financials. Workday communication tools ease the process of informing students and tracking conversations.

Financial Aid Workday Student (SIS) Key Features

Key Activity	Workday Student	What This Means for You:
FAFSA Data	FAFSA information is integrated into Workday financial aid records.	More centralized view of aid data.
Aid Packaging	Packaging performed through Workday financial aid workflows.	Improved visibility into aid awards.
Eligibility Review	Eligibility checks are supported within Workday processes.	Streamlined compliance review.
Award Communication	Award notifications managed through Workday communication tools.	Easier tracking of student notifications.
Financial Aid Disbursement	Aid disbursement coordinated through Workday student financials.	Better alignment with student account activity.

CHESS Payroll Shared Services Earns Clean SOC 1 Type 2 Audit

A Strong Commitment to Excellence and Trust in Higher Education Payroll

CHESS is excited to announce that they've completed their annual SOC 1 Type 2 audit for Payroll Shared Services, covering the period from April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026. An independent review by Auditwrx confirmed CHESS's ongoing commitment to the highest standards of internal control, security, and operational excellence for our member colleges and partners.



The SOC 1 Type 2 report evaluated the effectiveness of our controls related to payroll processing, risk assessment, security, and monitoring.

CHESS is pleased to share that the audit found no exceptions or deficiencies in any of the tested controls. This means that CHESS's processes for onboarding member colleges, managing payroll transactions, and restricting access to sensitive information were all designed and operated effectively throughout the audit period.

Key highlights from this audit include:

- Strong Governance:** The CHESS Board of Directors and Senior Executive Management Team meet regularly to review strategy and oversee operations, ensuring accountability and clear communication across the organization.
- Robust Security:** Logical access to payroll data is strictly controlled through secure authentication and approval processes. Only authorized personnel can access or make changes, and all access is tracked and reviewed.
- Effective Onboarding and Payroll Operations:** While no new member colleges were onboarded during this period, the report confirms that CHESS has thorough procedures in place for setting up new clients and conducting test payroll runs before going live. Payroll runs for member colleges are processed only after the appropriate approvals are in place, ensuring accuracy and timeliness.
- Reliable Partnerships:** CHESS's business partners (including Workday and OneSource Virtual) play important roles in hosting data, updating tax rates, and processing tax filings. Their controls are reviewed and monitored annually as part of CHESS's oversight process.

Our continued focus on transparency, reliability, and compliance means that our partners can count on CHESS to deliver secure, timely, and accurate payroll services year after year. As a matter of fact, this audit is CHESS's third clean audit in the past two years.

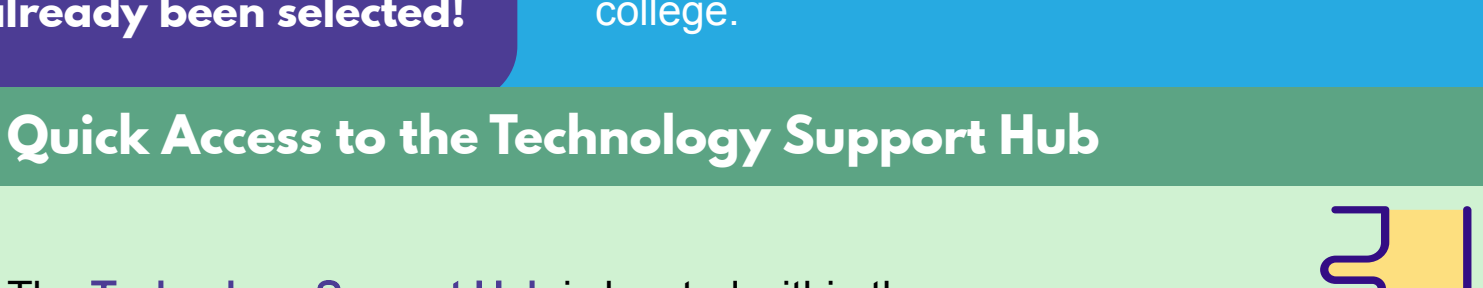
A huge shout-out to the CHESS ESS Team, CHESS Payroll Team, CHESS Finance Team, and the associated member college teams for their continued diligence to ensure we are serving our members to the highest standard.

Thank you to everyone who has and continues to make CHESS a trusted resource for higher education.

Workday Student Change Agents Wanted

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

Unify. Empower. Streamline.

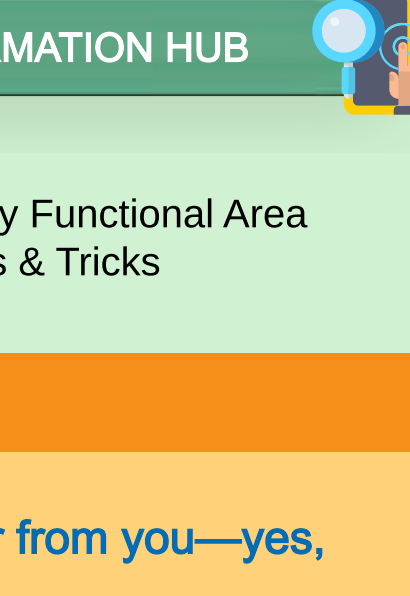


Congratulations to the new Workday Student Change Agents who have already been selected!

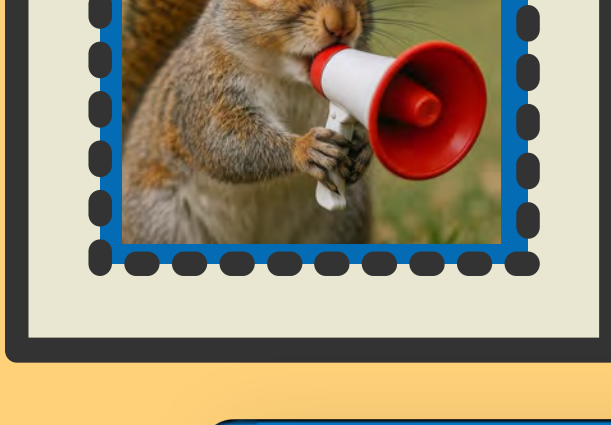
A complete list of the new Workday Student Change Agents can be found [here](#). The names are at the bottom of this web page. To view the names, click on the name of each member college.

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!



Your Feedback Is Important!



We want to hear from you—yes, you!

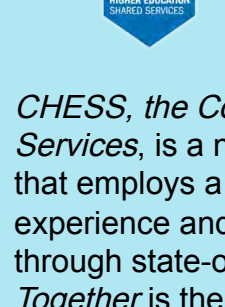
Whether you've got brilliant ideas, helpful suggestions, or just want to give CHESS the Squirrel a virtual high-five, this is your chance to speak up. Your feedback helps us make CHESS even better for everyone. So go nuts and drop us a line—CHESS'S all ears (and tail)!

[CLICK HERE TO LEAVE FEEDBACK](#)

Contact CHESS

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

CONTACT:
Karen Grandinetti
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.