CHESS Connection

October 2026

Workday Student
MILESTONE ACHIEVED: MTP1 MARKS A MAJOR STEP FORWARD!

On September 21, 2026, CHESS and its member colleges achieved a significant milestone in the Workday Student journey with the successful completion of Move to Production 1 (MTP1). This accomplishment reflects years of planning, collaboration, and commitment from teams across the collaborative since the shared vision for a unified student system first took shape in 2019.

"Workday Student represents an exciting step toward better serving students across our member colleges," said Dr. Rowley. "Congratulations to everyone who made this moment possible."

Leaders across the CHESS collaborative echoed that excitement. Tracy Hartzler noted how far the colleges have come since the project began, while Ed DesPlas encouraged the team to celebrate the accomplishment before turning its attention to the work ahead. Dr. Robin Kuykendall described MTP1 as both a milestone and the beginning of a new chapter, recognizing the collaboration among the colleges, CHESS, Workday, and CampusWorks that made the achievement possible.

Dr. Jonathan Fuentes stated, "Congratulations to the entire team on our go-live! To get here, it took countless hours of planning, collaboration, problem-solving, and perseverance. I know the investment of all this time and energy will pay off when we see our processes streamlined and our student experience enhanced."

Recently, Dr. Carol Linder commented on the entire project and said, “We are building a more connected student experience, one that makes it easier for students to apply, register, understand their financial aid, track their academic progress, and get the support they need. Ultimately, this work is about removing barriers and giving our faculty and staff better tools to help students succeed.”

While MTP1 is a moment worth celebrating, leaders emphasized that it is not the finish line. "This milestone represents many years of hard work, collaboration, and commitment from hundreds of people across our institutions," said Dr. Shaun McAlmont. "We should be proud of what we have accomplished together, while recognizing that go-live marks the beginning of an important and exciting new phase."

Congratulations to everyone who contributed to reaching MTP1. Your dedication, persistence, and partnership continue to move the CHESS mission forward and bring the vision of Workday Student to life!

Congratulations to Our Newest CHESS Superstars!

Congratulations to the CHESS Workday Release Team, including those in ESS, Data Reporting, and Training!

CHESS SUPER-STARS

Top Row (Left to Right):	Middle Row (Left to Right):	Bottom Row (Left to Right):
Ben Rollag, Regina Dart, & Yolanda Pino	Dawn Kenney-Peshlakai, Frances Reed, Tessa Valles, Keri Magana, & Melissa Black	Millie Adams-Bellah, Doreen Jaramillo, Barb Griego & Antoinette Barela

The CHESS Workday Release Team was nominated by Trish Heaton and Michael Chavez-Kerr of CHESS, who shared the following:

“We would like to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the team for their outstanding hard work, dedication, and commitment in successfully completing another Workday Release.

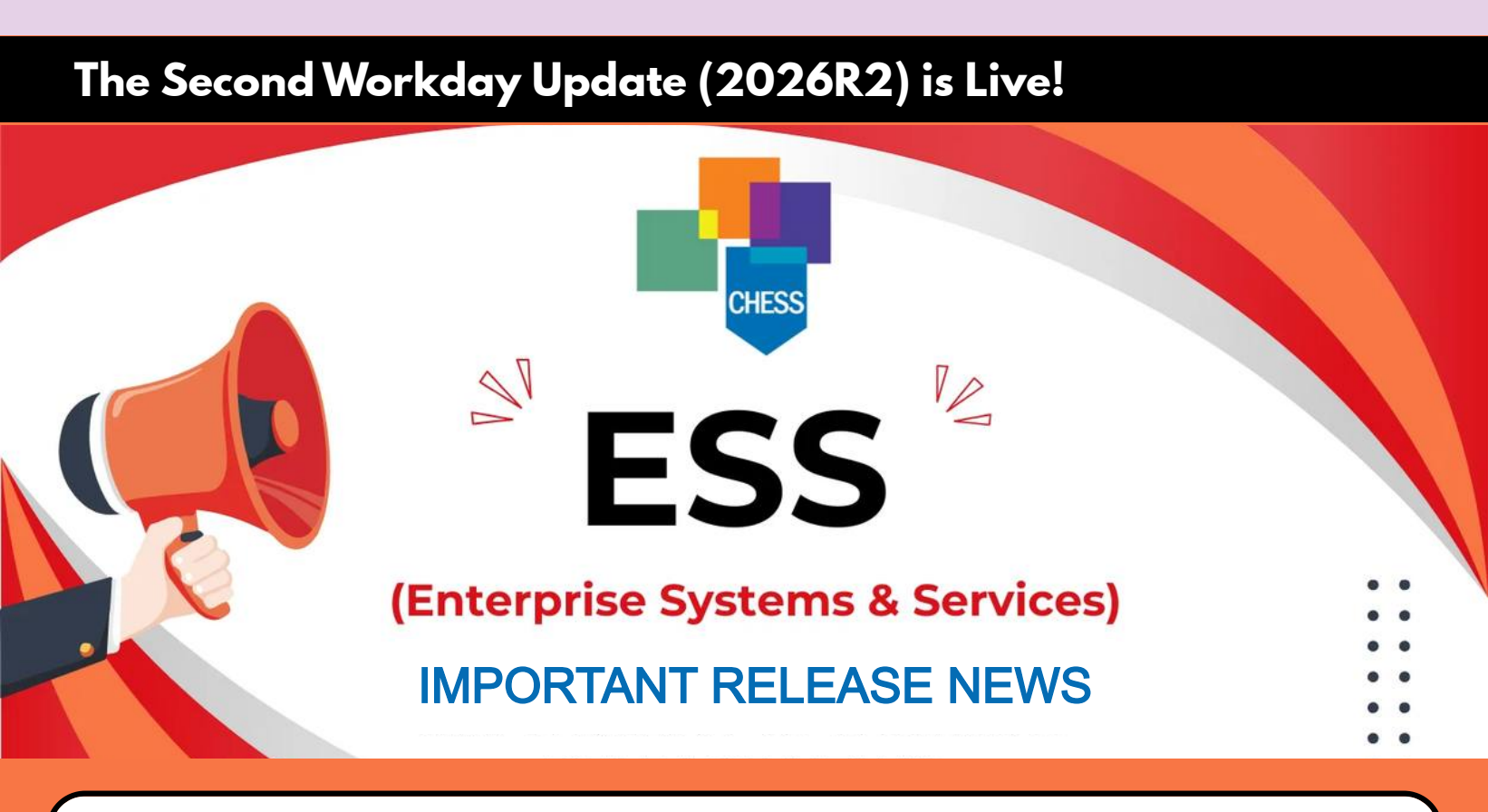
This release represented a significant collaborative effort, with more than **750 items reviewed and tested** in partnership with our college team members. Their attention to detail, willingness to collaborate, and commitment to excellence helped ensure that each update was thoroughly evaluated. This release coincides with the MTP 1 go-live of the Workday Student project, with each team member actively involved in both initiatives.

The success of this release is a direct reflection of their expertise, teamwork, and unwavering commitment to serving our colleges. Their efforts help ensure that important system enhancements and updates are delivered accurately and efficiently, supporting the continued success of our colleges.

Thank you for your exceptional work and for consistently going above and beyond. We are proud of what we have accomplished together and look forward to continuing our success as a 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.

The Second Workday Update (2026R2) is Live!



ESS

(Enterprise Systems & Services)

IMPORTANT RELEASE NEWS

Here are a few highlights you may notice as you log in to Workday:

Workday Time Tracking Accessibility Enhancements:
Workday has introduced several accessibility improvements to the Time Tracking experience, including enhanced screen reader support and additional context for users of assistive technologies. These updates make it easier to navigate tasks and reports while improving the overall user experience for all employees.

New Self-Service Task: Manage My Receipts:
Workday has added a new self-service task, Manage My Receipts, which provides a centralized location to view, edit, cancel, and track receipts you have created or requested. In addition, a new My Draft Receipts home page card helps identify receipts that still require action.

Workday Learning Enhancements:
Workday Learning has been updated with a modernized user interface, improved search and content discovery capabilities, enhanced media and course features, and redesigned course summary pages, making it easier to find and engage with learning opportunities.

If you have questions about any of these Workday release updates, please reach out to the service desk at your college.

A special thank you to CHESS ESS and the college operational teams for putting in countless hours configuring and testing to ensure this release was a success!

Welcome to the CHESS Team!

We’re thrilled to welcome Isabella (Bella) Rascon to CHESS as our new Financial Aid Verification & Processing Specialist. Please join us in giving Isabella a warm and enthusiastic welcome to the CHESS team!

A CHESS Promotion

Congratulations to Melissa Black on her new role as Senior Applications Analyst on the ESS Team!

Melissa has been a valued member of the CHESS organization for 2.5 years. In her previous role, she served as the Workday Learning Lead and a Business Analyst for Finance, bringing extensive experience and expertise to the team.

We are excited for Melissa to start her new position and look forward to her continued contributions and success.

Benefits Open Enrollment is Underway in Workday for Most CHESS Member College Employees!

Beginning October 1st, all CHESS member college employees (except San Juan College employees) will utilize the self-service option in Workday for Benefits Open Enrollment this month. While some requests will require additional supporting documents, many changes will not require any paperwork at all!

REVIEWED
Dental
Delta Dental
UPDATED
Medical
Blue Cross Blue Shield
Vision
Davis Vision

As part of Open Enrollment, benefits-eligible employees will have a note in their Workday "My Tasks" titled, “Change Benefits for Open Enrollment.”

Clicking the “Let’s Get Started” button will take employees to the enrollment screen, where current benefits coverages and their costs can be viewed, and desired changes can be made.

Any questions should be directed to the Benefits Office at your college.

In support of this year’s Open Enrollment Period and other needs, employees can access tip sheets from the Training Hub at CHESS.edu.

For employees who work for colleges that have insurance administered through NMPSIA, employees are also required to complete enrollment through the NMPSIA Benefits Portal.

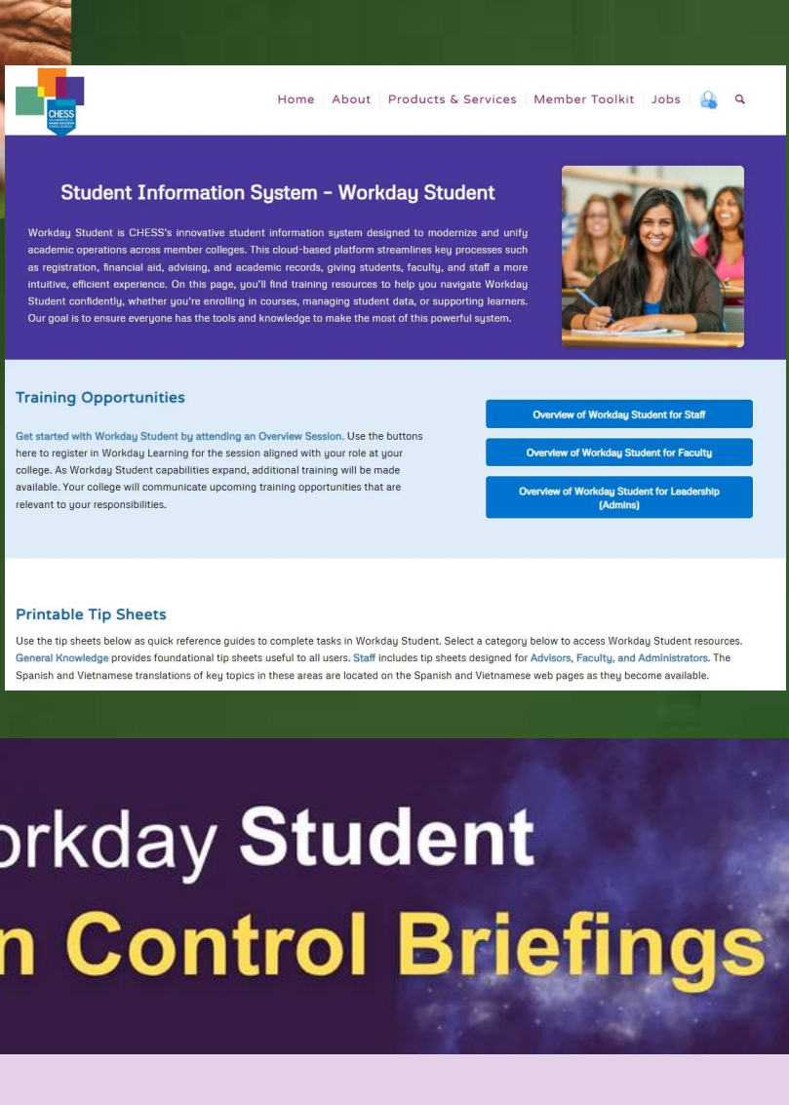
Visit CHESS.edu for tip sheets available in multiple languages to assist.

BREAKING
NEWS

CHESSTER IS LIVE ON THE SCENE WITH SOME BREAKING NEWS!

The new Workday Student (SIS) Information and Resources page is now live!

Click here to view the new page on CHESS.edu


Home
About
Products & Services
Member Toolkit
Jobs
Overview of Workday Student for Staff
Overview of Workday Student for Faculty
Overview of Workday Student for Leadership (Admins)

Student Information System – Workday Student

Workday Student is CHESS's innovative student information system designed to modernize and unify academic operations across member colleges. This cloud-based platform streamlines key processes such as registration, financial aid, advising, and academic records, giving students, faculty, and staff a more intuitive, efficient experience. On this page, you'll find training resources to help you navigate Workday Student confidently, whether you're enrolling in courses, managing student data, or supporting learners. Our goal is to ensure everyone has the tools and knowledge to make the most of this powerful system.

Training Opportunities

Get started with Workday Student by attending an Overview Session. Use the buttons here to register in Workday Learning for the session aligned with your role at your college. As Workday Student capabilities expand, additional training will be made available. Your college will communicate upcoming training opportunities that are relevant to your responsibilities.

Printable Tip Sheets

Use the tip sheets below as quick reference guides to complete tasks in Workday Student. Select a category below to access Workday Student resources. General Knowledge provides foundational tip sheets useful to all users. Staff includes tip sheets designed for Advisors, Faculty, and Administrators. The Spanish and Vietnamese translations of key topics in these areas are located on the Spanish and Vietnamese web pages as they become available.

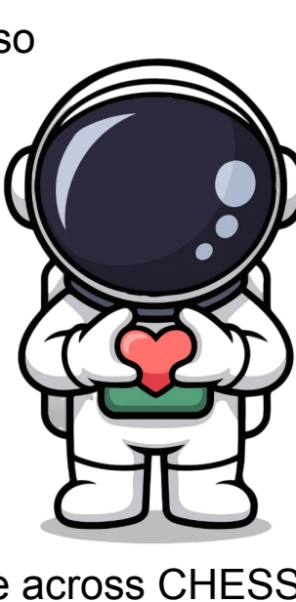
Workday Student
Mission Control Briefings

Quiet on the Flight Deck, Busy in Mission Control

Last month marked Move to Production 1 (MTP1), an important milestone in the Workday Student project. For most faculty and staff, day-to-day work will look much the same for now. Student applications, schedules, and other operational activities for the current academic year will continue in the legacy system while the Workday Student team prepares for future implementation.

What may not be immediately visible is the tremendous amount of work taking place behind the scenes. As part of MTP1, teams across the CHESS colleges are actively engaged in knowledge transfer activities while continuing to develop integrations, build reports, and conduct extensive testing. Preparation for the production build will begin following the winter break.

During this transition period, some colleagues will also be managing dual data entry across both systems to ensure data remains accurate, consistent, and accessible where it is needed. Their efforts, along with the work happening across all project teams, are helping lay the foundation for a successful implementation.

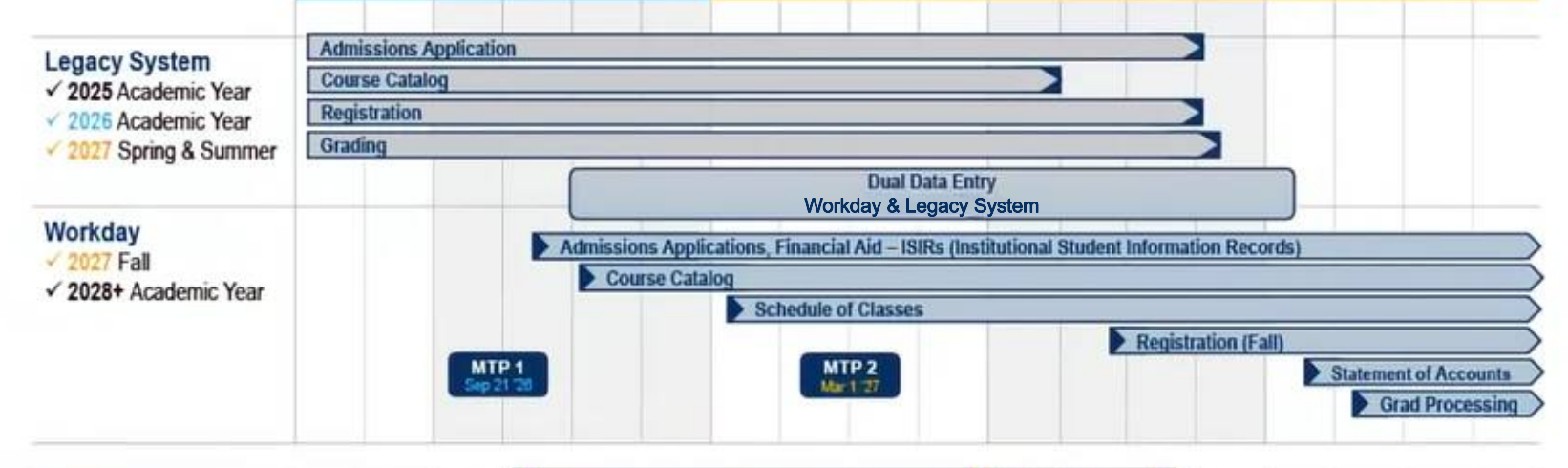


As you see members of the Workday Student team on your campus, take a moment to thank them and celebrate this milestone. Their work today is helping build the foundation for the future student experience across CHESS.

This briefing is part of our Mission Control Briefings series, designed to keep faculty and staff informed and prepared as we continue to move forward to the next milestone in the Workday Student implementation.

LOOKING AHEAD

SIS Project Timeline



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.

A reminder of the current Workday Student timeline by stakeholder group.

STAFF	FACULTY	NEW STUDENTS	CURRENT STUDENTS
Workday Student officially began October 1, 2026, with phased functionality through Spring 2027.	Workday Student will be available beginning in Spring 2027 with phased functionality through Fall 2027.	Application for Fall 2027 open at different dates for each college. Please check with your college for your specific date.	Registration for Fall 2027 will open Spring 2027.

CNM Learning Labs Provide Top-Notch Knowledge Transfer

Travis Eli Thompson serves as Manager of Employee Learning and Organizational Development for CNM HR and the SIS project's OCM Training Lead Coordinator. He is leading a creative approach at CNM to get non-project staff ready for the new Workday Student system. Below, Travis discusses how the SIS Workstream Leads will transfer their knowledge of Workday Student to CNM employees.

The strategy, called "Learning Labs," pairs subject matter experts from the project team with staff outside the project to transfer critical system knowledge and help them understand how their roles will shift once the new system goes live. Organized by functional areas, each team at CNM charts their own training topics, with the SIS Project training team supplementing efforts providing tip sheets, videos, and other resources. The response so far has been overwhelmingly positive.

Every Learning Lab session includes an evaluation component that gauges the participants' comfort level, whether they can complete tasks with a tip sheet, without one, or need additional support, giving the training team real data to shape future offerings and target areas where more practice is needed. For other CHESS colleges considering a similar approach, Thompson's advice is simple, "Just make a space and time to do it. No one needs to be an expert in every area. Our (CNM's) project functional leads help shape training in their areas."

Thompson and his team are happy to offer guidance, recommendations, or support to all of us navigating this transition. Most importantly, working together as a team makes it easier on everyone.

Change Agents Help to Connect SIS Project Information

As the Workday Student project moves into a more active readiness phase this fall, Change Agents are helping connect project updates with the people who will experience the change across our colleges.

Change Agents serve as trusted peers who help share accurate information, listen for questions and concerns, and bring feedback back to the project team. Faculty and staff Change Agents recently reconnected after the summer break and are preparing to support upcoming readiness activities, including Mock Semester later this fall.

The project is also beginning to expand the Change Agent network to include students. Student Change Agents will provide an important student perspective by reviewing communications, identifying likely questions, and helping colleges understand how students prefer to receive information.

Together, these groups will help keep communication moving in both directions as we prepare for future Workday Student milestones and the March 2027 go-live.

Volunteer Change Agents Wanted!

Become a Change Agent and help us move forward together with Workday Student!

Why become a Change Agent?

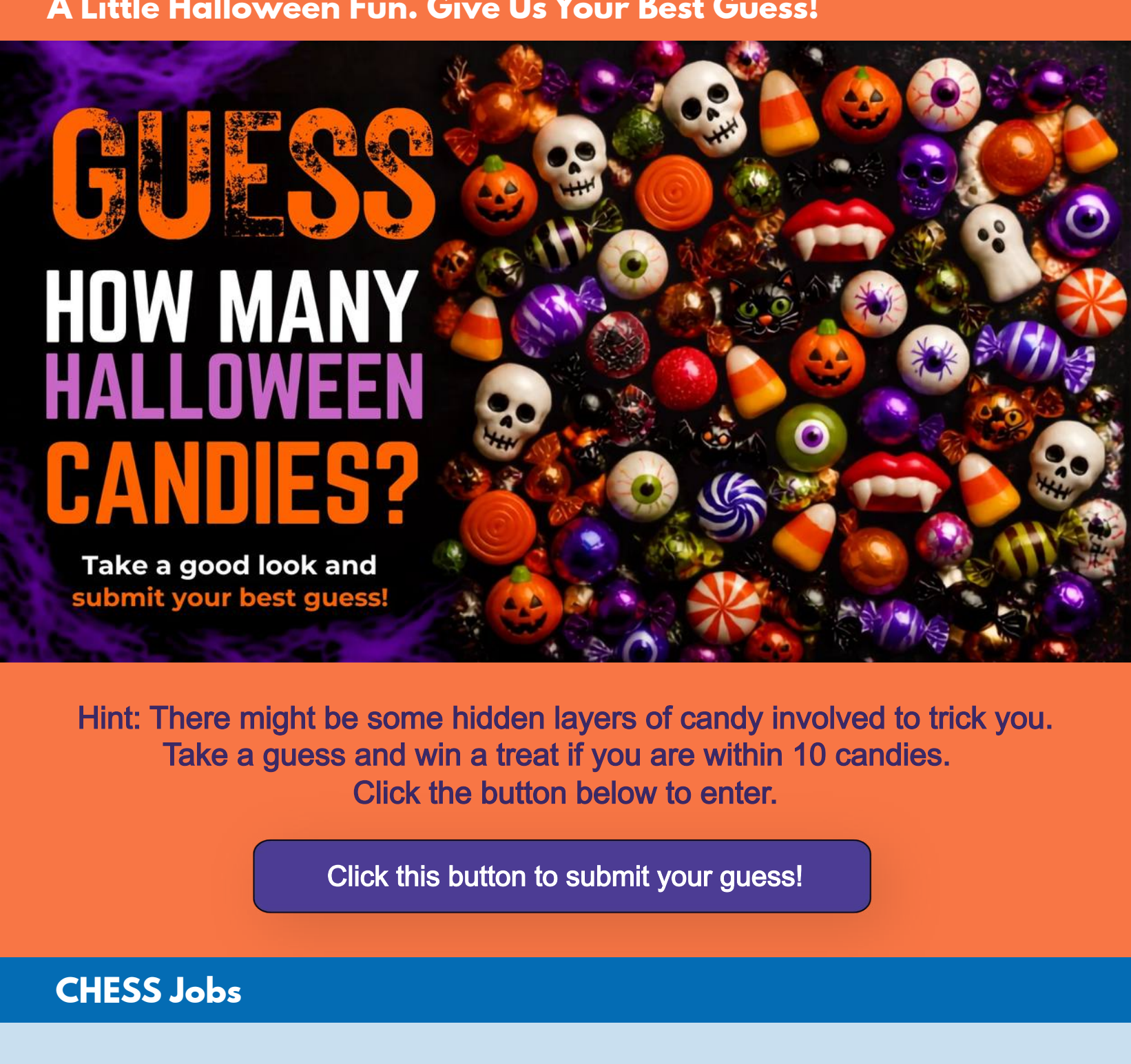
- Be among the first to learn about processes and tools in Workday Student
- Strengthen teamwork and enhance campus-wide collaboration
- Build valuable leadership, communication, and project collaboration skills
- Make a lasting difference by helping your peers embrace new ways of working

Unify.
Empower.
Streamline.

Click the button below or scan the QR code to fill out the Change Agent Volunteer Form.

Change Agent Volunteer Form

A Little Halloween Fun. Give Us Your Best Guess!



Hint: There might be some hidden layers of candy involved to trick you.
Take a guess and win a treat if you are within 10 candies.
Click the button below to enter.

Click this button to submit your guess!

CHESS Jobs

Position Summary

The CHESS Data Reporting Analyst is essential to providing transformational support to meet the data and reporting goals and initiatives of CHESS and its member colleges through Workday reporting tools and Prism Analytics. The role will provide data reporting services for all areas of the Workday system (HCM, Finance, Payroll, Student) and will participate fully in the definition of a detailed data governance framework.

We’re seeking a
Data Reporting Analyst
Collaborative for Higher Education Shared Services
CHESS

Visit CHESS Jobs for information about this position.

Need Support for Workday?

- Learn how to Submit a New Service Request
- Quick Access to Follow-up on a Service Request

SERVICE REQUEST HUB

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 CHESSTER 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—CHESSTER'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.