

Abila MIP Fund Accounting Nonprofit Public University

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY



CUSTOMER

Kansas State University

INDUSTRY

Public University

LOCATION

Manhattan, Kansas

SYSTEM

Abila MIP Fund Accounting

SOLUTIONS PROVIDER

Net at Work

www.netatwork.com

Kansas State University Recruits Abila MIP and Net at Work to Build Visibility and Accountability

Kansas State University is a comprehensive research, land-grant institution with more than 24,000 students and over 5,000 employees. Founded in 1863, the university has evolved into a modern institution of higher education, committed to quality programs and responsive to a rapidly changing world and the aspirations of an increasingly diverse society. It takes a flexible and robust financial and accounting infrastructure to keep Kansas State running smoothly, and powering that infrastructure for many of the university's individual departments and colleges is Abila MIP Fund Accounting backed by the professionals at Net at Work.



"The university's Oracle-based financial application works well for the university as a whole, but it doesn't serve the individual departments' needs," explains Roberta Johnson, Senior Director for Administration and IT Services for the university. "The departments need a secondary system configured for the way we operate and enabling us to maintain our own budgets and produce our own financial reports."

Johnson was familiar with Abila MIP and knew of its reputation within the nonprofit sector. "I love the power and simplicity of Abila MIP," she says. "With help from our partners at Net at Work, we've now deployed it successfully for multiple other university departments."

Integration Promotes Efficiency

Net@Work helped Johnson and her team create an integration between Abila MIP and

Enrolling Abila MIP at the Department Level

While the university has centralized accounting, HR and Payroll, and student support systems, most of the individual departments and colleges have their own accounting systems to manage their own finances, and the solution favored by many is Abila MIP Fund Accounting.

Abila MIP was first recruited by Kansas State's Information Technologies department nearly two decades ago, to serve as the department's financial reporting and accounting tool.

CHALLENGE

The university's centralized accounting, HR, Payroll, and student services systems couldn't deliver the individualized departmental data needed to help the departments best manage their finances, their budgets, and their reporting.

SOLUTION

Abila MIP Fund Accounting is the accounting solution of choice for many of the university's departments. Net at Work remains Kansas State's long-term business partner, supporting the application and optimizing it for each department.

RESULTS

Data exchange between the central systems saving time and increasing accuracy. Accurate and timely department level financial data helps staff make strategic, proactive decisions. Powerful reporting engine delivers the granularity departments demand.



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understand accounting, not just software, which proves so valuable in helping us get the most out of the package."

~Kara Gonzales
Systems Coordinator
Housing and Dining Services

About Net at Work Nonprofit Practice

Our Net at Work Nonprofit Practice, NFP at Work, helps nonprofit and government organizations like yours achieve your mission through technology. Think of us as your outsourced CTO, "Chief Technology Officer" team. We work side-by-side with you to help you overcome your biggest hurdles and find the best solutions for your needs. Our team of experts, CPAs, consultants, and developers understand your day-to-day nonprofit work and the technologies you need. We are also software and accounting experts with over 20 years of experience in payroll, HR, audits, grant reporting, and internal control processes.



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the university's Oracle software, eliminating the need for the departments to double enter the data. "It frees a tremendous amount of staff time," says Johnson, "and we have more confidence in the accuracy of the numbers."

Another integration solution Net at Work worked with the university to implement loads online course data into Abila MIP from the university's main student information system. This enables the departments to produce revenue and expense reports at the course level, by semester and year.

In addition, the university can import summarized data from the main payroll and time reporting systems into Abila MIP, ensuring the departments have full visibility into their labor expenses.

Labor Saving Efficiencies

Kara Gonzales, Systems Coordinator for Kansas State's Housing and Dining Services department, selected Abila MIP after an extensive search and evaluation of a dozen potential accounting solutions. "My research ultimately led me to Roberta (Johnson) and Net at Work," she says. "We saw how flexible Abila MIP is, which enables it to adapt to the needs of different departments."

Prior to implementing Abila MIP and the interface to Oracle, the Libraries department employed two full-time people to simply enter and reconcile the department's data. With the time saved, the department's staff can focus on more value-oriented tasks.

Supporting Strategic Decision Making

Empowering each department with its own financial reporting, budgeting and accounting tool - and integrating that tool with the larger platform - has changed the dynamics within the departments. "We're able to make strategic financial decisions because we have instant access to our current and historical data," says Gonzales. "We can generate our own reports within seconds, instead of waiting for the university

to distribute reports to us. And the data we get is much more granular, more insightful and more relevant to our department's operations."

Like many public universities, Kansas State faces periodic budget constraints. Both Johnson and Gonzales note that their departments' use of Abila MIP helped them make strategic decisions during these lean times. "Without accurate historical data about what we were paying for, when, and to whom, we wouldn't have survived the budget cuts in such good shape," says Johnson. "For example, we were able to uncover from the data that it wasn't profitable for us to keep some of the facilities open 24 hours. Adjusting the hours helped us bring costs in line with the budget."

Partner Gets High Marks

Net at Work remains the university's business partner, helping each department deploy and configure Abila MIP to full advantage. "Their support is incredible," says Gonzales. "The staff at Net at Work really understand accounting, not just software, which proves so valuable in helping us get the most out of the package. Net at Work brings a human face to the solution that we genuinely appreciate."

"Net at Work understands what we do and how we operate," adds Johnson. "Educational institutions operate differently than other nonprofits, and Net at Work gets that. We attend their user conferences and always come away with something valuable."

Kansas State is passionate about being fiscally responsible and delivering the best value to its students, staff, and community. The various departments' partnership with Net at Work and Abila MIP is leading to time and money savings, along with a reduced staff workload and improved overall accuracy.