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Redefining the Academic ERP Experience

Southwest Wisconsin Technical College chooses CAMS Enterprise™

Three Rivers Systems' academic ERP solution selected to replace PeopleSoft for its easy-to-use reporting, intuitive interface, reliable performance and predictable cost of ownership.

January 26, 2010 – St. Louis — Southwest Wisconsin Technical College has selected Three Rivers Systems Inc.'s fully integrated, Web-based [CAMS Enterprise™](#) solution to replace its PeopleSoft academic Enterprise Resource Planning system that had become too expensive to increase its functionality.

In selecting CAMS Enterprise, the college gained a safe, secure, totally integrated administrative system and portals created exclusively for higher education. Designed as one system, with one database and one set of shared code, CAMS eliminates the need for academic institutions and their end users to learn, interface and manage multiple, patchwork and often incompatible systems.

[CAMS Enterprise](#) was created with standardized Microsoft technology to be a seamless academic ERP written from the ground up as a single solution. Institutions like Southwest Tech that implement CAMS' fully integrated solution with the proven rapid implementation process quickly transition to the new system and enjoy greater accessibility, better automation, improved communication, deeper business intelligence and verifiably higher ROI.

According to Jaime Klein, Ph.D., Southwest Tech's director of information technology, the college's incumbent system had some limitations. "Our incumbent PeopleSoft solution was difficult for new employees to use. It also locked us into expensive upgrades for the system, requiring a great deal of time on the parts of the users for testing. Additionally, it was very costly to maintain the system, even though we were a member of a consortium. With CAMS, we now have a fully integrated Web-based system with wide-ranging functionality that meets our current and future needs — all using well-understood and accessible Microsoft programs."

In their search for a new system, Southwest Tech wanted to eliminate:

- Problems accessing their data.
- Expensive system updates.
- Frequent down time.
- Ongoing, never-ending maintenance and costs.
- Dependence on consultants.
- Steep learning curves for power users and new employees.
- Difficulty producing reports.

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Southwest Tech chooses CAMS Enterprise™ — Page 2

At the same time, Klein wanted the ability to deliver online services easily to the college's rapidly growing student population that constantly demanded more technology. Her search yielded several potential systems and quickly the group found a match in the all Web-based CAMS Enterprise.

"After nine years of investing time, money and resources into our PeopleSoft system it was a difficult decision to move. However, considering the functionality, costs, and control over our own processes and data, we decided we had to find a new system," Klein said.

As a truly Web-based solution designed with pure Microsoft Internet technology, CAMS allows Southwest Tech to offer all its needed services in a standard browser. The system provides everything the college needs to manage the full student lifecycle, including online applications, online registration and payment, integrated financial aid, built-in degree audit, state-mandated reports, third-party billing and much more.

A totally integrated academic ERP solution like CAMS Enterprise relies on shared applications and data. Application sharing allows essential functions like registration, course management, portals, financial management and development to work together seamlessly. This is possible because the same base technology that powers registration is the basis for all other functions as well. Products designed in this way — as a singular solution rather than an interfaced system— yield a variety of benefits for users:

- All functions look, feel and operate the same way so users can master them quickly.
- They eliminate multiple interfaces, save manpower, reduce the need to acquire additional hardware and expedite implementation.
- They eliminate updates to multiple systems.
- They can be easily and efficiently scaled as an institution grows or adds campuses,

Three Rivers Systems President and Founder Amir Tajkarimi welcomed news of the decision to choose CAMS. "We are delighted we can put our 25 years of experience in delivering safe solutions with predictable total cost of ownership to work for Southwest Tech. Just as we have done for our other clients, we look forward to helping Southwest Tech reduce its IT expenditures by 50 to 70 percent. It's rewarding to us when we can help a college worry less about IT issues so it can concentrate on its mission of providing a great college experience for students," Tajkarimi said.

"These days many colleges and universities are laying off staff, increasing student tuition or both due to shortfalls in state and federal assistance. Unnecessary technology expenditures are out of line with today's new economy," Tajkarimi said. "At Three Rivers Systems our experienced professionals help a college's IT people transition the institution to this new economy so they can achieve operational efficiencies that help them prosper, not panic."

About [Southwest Technical College](#)

Located in Fennimore, Wis., Southwest Tech is a technical college preparing students with job skills responsive to business and industry, assisting adults with occupational advancement, preparing students to transfer to four-year colleges, and fostering local economic development with technology. Part of the Wisconsin Technical College System, Southwest Tech's 185 full-time faculty and employees serve more than 11,000 students annually.

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About CAMS Enterprise

Developed from the ground up with Microsoft Internet technologies, [CAMS Enterprise](#), is a highly scalable, comprehensive academic management system that is quick to implement and easy to use. CAMS Enterprise consolidates multiple stand-alone systems including admissions, student information, financial aid, student services, fiscal management with HR and payroll, fund-raising, alumni relations, document management, course management a full suite of portals, and more into one solution that ensures administrators, staff, faculty and students all work with the most recent and most accurate information. By uniting administrative and academic management systems, CAMS Enterprise is the only totally Web-based, completely integrated solution for managing the entire student lifecycle.

About Three Rivers Systems Inc.

[Three Rivers Systems Inc.](#), the developer and service provider for CAMS, is headquartered in St. Louis and has been delivering innovative technology-driven solutions to the educational community for the past 25 years. The company has a large established client base throughout the U.S., and a rapidly growing international presence with clients in North America, South America, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

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