The Situation

Missouri Baptist University (MBU) is a Christian liberal arts school offering graduate and undergraduate programs in more than 40 fields. The university has more than 5,300 students at 12 locations in southern Illinois, eastern Missouri and online. MBU places importance on study and service to promote “social change through service and leadership” as one of its core values.

Having been on the ‘Great Plains’ version of Microsoft Dynamics GP since 1990, MBU was already familiar with Dynamics GP. Once the university had nearly tripled in size, they began looking for ways to leverage more benefits from their GP investment. MBU approached Turnkey Technologies for support with automating numerous manual processes and targeting new streamlining possibilities.

Though the school had in-house programming support for their academic software, Dynamics GP was solely used by the University Business Office and did not warrant the same level of in-house staffing. MBU needed a dedicated Dynamics GP resource who could also become familiar with the university’s internal accounting processes and personnel.

The Solution

By partnering with Turnkey, the university was able to obtain a dedicated consultant acting as the school’s Dynamics GP project manager. MBU and Turnkey worked together to identify and prioritize the key accounting process improvements that would have the greatest impact. Turnkey implemented and managed several enhancements to MBU’s Dynamics GP solution including an upgrade, training, third party applications, on-site visits and the sharing of educational resources. Today, the partnership continues to help bring MBU’s accounting team to new levels of success, productivity and efficiency.
The Results

Improvement in Data Accuracy and Project Management

Not only were the labor-intensive manual processes eliminated, but by reducing the amount of data entry required, data accuracy improved as well. A unique benefit of utilizing a Turnkey consultant as a Dynamics GP project manager for MBU was the ability to deliver additional efficiencies. The MBU accounting team had an expert vision of what could be further automated, but did not have the necessary time to plan out these special projects. Turnkey’s consultant understood their goals and identified each step to redesign, test and implement new procedures, delegate each task to the appropriate individual, and then follow-up to manage progress.

Guided Year-End Processing

Year-End processes need to happen in a defined, coordinated sequence, with the entire accounting team working together as one unit. If one step is overlooked, it can adversely affect the whole process. Turnkey’s consultant, Scott, took charge of the 18-step Year-End process and guided the staff through to completion with minimal stress.

“Scott is really an extension of the MBU accounting department now that he’s worked closely with us for several years,” says Revenaugh, Director of Finance. “It would be difficult to justify the overhead cost of hiring an in-house developer, so by working with Turnkey we reap the benefits of having a Dynamics GP expert available when needed.”

Significant Payroll Time Savings

With the Greenshades Online Timesheet integration, employees can clock in and out online to provide more accurate payroll data. This capability offers MBU a stable time entry and approval process to eliminate the need for printing paystubs.

“This integration with Dynamics GP was a huge improvement to our paystub approval process,” says Pam Savage, Controller. “We probably save a day’s worth of time now that we no longer have to print and deliver paystubs.”

To learn more about Microsoft Dynamics GP for Higher Education, please visit our website at: www.turnkeytec.com