

JUNE, 2016



ERP NEWSLETTER



NEWSLETTER

ERP PROGRAM UPDATE

Volume 7, June 2016

ERP Group Summer Photo

Did you know?

SAP customers include:

87% of the Forbes Global 2000 companies

98% of the 100 most valued brands

100 % of the Dow Jones top scoring sustainability companies

1 – SAP North America



ERP Team Back Row: Stephen Farris, Michael Porter, Carl Try, Chad Dierking, Phillip Wyatt, Gregg Easterly, Kevin O'Toole

Front Row: Krista Bergschneider, Tara Kessler, Patrick Dominguez, Barb Piwowarski, Jeff Bean (*not pictured are Bob Blinn & Joel Rappaport*)

This month we arranged a few minutes to organize our State ERP team for a photograph. The team is working on two functional areas to support the ERP transformation. The **Project Management Office (PMO)** manages the project's timeline, deliverables, quality, budget, resources and issue resolution. It oversees the various teams within the project structure (e.g., functional, technical, training, etc.) to help them work in a collaborative, integrated way and also oversee the System Integrators who are working with the State to implement SAP.

The **State Functional Experts (SFE's)** own the process designs and system configurations for each of their respective business areas. Those areas include accounting, grantee management, inventory management, procurement, and projects. Their deep knowledge of government services, customers and vendors is critical to successfully gathering business requirements, validating the business designs and testing the SAP system. Together, these two teams are working hard to build a unified Statewide ERP solution that will achieve our objectives:

- *Drastically improve the efficiency of administrative and citizen's services*
 - *Consistently deliver financial statements in a timely manner*
- *Enable statewide transparency, access to information and swift decision making*
 - *Enable State operations to receive a clean audit from the Auditor General*
 - *Be a catalyst for statewide transformation of all administrative services*



**Click here to see
archived videos
online!**

Agency Experts Look to the Future

This month the ERP Newsletter is featuring the perspective of three of our State Functional Experts; Tara Kessler, Phil Wyatt and Krista Bergschneider.

This version of our Day in the Life series is expanding our interactive and video capability to include podcasts. We hope to one day expand our reach to smart phones so our users can access ERP content in the palm of their hands.

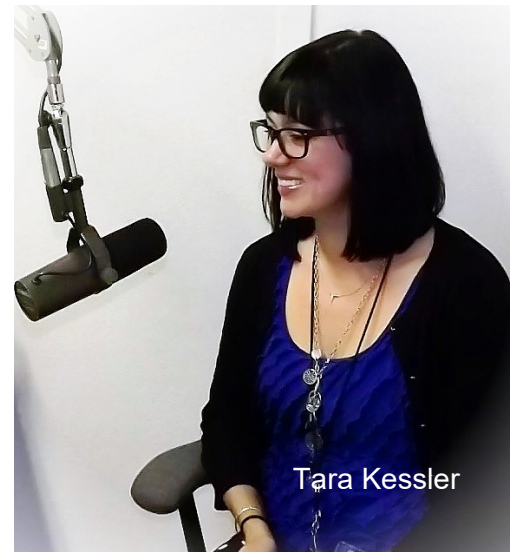
In most cases, we don't identify the people behind the writing of our newsletter content. In this case, the audio podcasts are a conversation and the listener wouldn't know who's doing the interviewing. To that end, I'm J.R. Olivero from the ERP Communication team, and I interviewed our functional experts.

I first spoke with Functional Lead of the General Ledger, Tara Kessler, who, at the moment, is handling budget execution, general ledger, period end close and financial reporting. In response to her thoughts on SAP and the overall ERP implementation, Tara said that "getting an actual design approved by the State of Illinois is huge!" and that "we're now developing, implementing and testing the system – which has never been done before." She went on to say that "this system allows agencies to pull information together very quickly, in a concise manner – which will have an incredible impact in a positive way." She also noted that the new process will optimize general ledger tracking (assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses) and make period end closures more efficient, detailed and precise.

Phil Wyatt is our Grants Management Functional Expert. I asked Phil what he's trying to achieve. He said, "we're trying to show agencies the path to the future. We have presentations and systems where we can actually show working screens and how the input data works." With regard to which aspects of the process he finds particularly challenging, Phil noted that "we're finding that some of the agencies are still managing multi-million dollar grants on Excel spreadsheets. That's eye-opening to say the least." He went on to say that this situation is no fault of the agencies in question. It's just a matter of budget and not being able to keep pace with technology. "That's why SAP is going to be tremendous for them, and they're excited about coming on board."

Although Phil noted that any system change encounters some measure of resistance, overall he finds that "the agencies are open-minded and looking to better themselves."

Continued...



Tara Kessler



Phil Wyatt



Krista Bergschneider

"This system allows agencies to pull information together, quickly, in a concise manner - which will have an incredible impact..."
-Tara Kessler



Agency Experts Look to the Future

ERP Audio Blog

...continued from page 3

CLICK ON ANY BOX TO HEAR THAT PODCAST



Tara
Kessler
Podcast



Phil
Wyatt
Podcast



Krista
Bergschneider
Podcast

Our functional experts come to the project team with a wealth of experience in State and ERP expertise. In the case of Accounts Receivable Functional Expert, Krista Bergschneider, I found that her 24 years' experience at Treasury an invaluable asset to the ERP process to ensure we're addressing any issues with a Statewide perspective.

"Many of the agencies are very excited about turning over multiple manual processes into one combined system. They see this as a great opportunity" Krista said.

She related her thoughts on the new system capabilities; "SAP will be much more efficient and more accurate. It will help to create a better, less stressful work environment."

As with our May interviewees, Krista agrees and similarly advises those who are preparing for implementation to "clean up your data!" "Go through your daily processes and determine what you need and what's outdated. Look at your reports and consolidate your information."

She also added a unique view of how SAP/ERP process will affect the agencies as a community. "Until now, agencies have only known their own systems. With SAP agencies now have the ability to be interdependent and rely on each other if they need support or have questions."

"SAP will be much more efficient and more accurate. It will help to create a better, less stressful work environment."
- Krista Bergschneider



Podcast Archive

Click here to access archived podcasts



~ Media Updates ~

Audio Podcasts and New Media

As with everything we do in the ERP office, we're always focused on how to improve operations and make information sharing easier.

To date, we've developed both PDF and interactive versions of our monthly newsletter. We've included informative and educational videos from live meetings and studio recordings. We're interfacing with Change Champions, Functional Experts and State consultants to bring you the most up-to-date changes and adaptations in the implementation process.

This month we're adding ERP podcasts to our stable of media outreach tools. The podcasts can be heard via our newsletter, online via SharePoint or can be downloaded to any device that has secure internet access. We're also in the process of developing a smart phone app that will (upon approval) allow users to access web-based audio and video programs from our online library.

ERP Program Name Announcement:

The survey results are in! Back in our March Newsletter we asked for your help in officially branding and naming the ERP program. We submitted several examples online and included a link to our online survey.

Based in large part on the survey results, 12 different versions of the potential slogan and 34 different iterations of the logo were reviewed for approval.

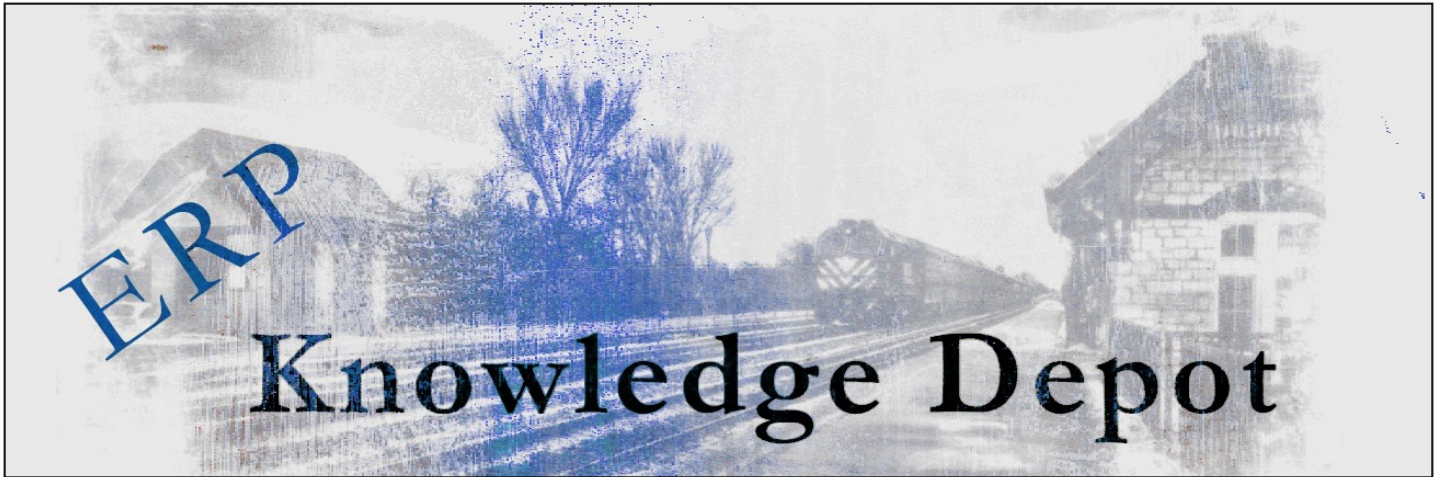
The most popular brand and slogan were reviewed and approved by ERP program leadership.

The ACTS logo you see to the right is the new brand for the Illinois Enterprise Resource Planning Program and as you can see the acronym "ACTS" stand for "Accountability, Credibility, Transparency, Sustainability", which are all key benefits that the program will deliver.



Click on the icon below to submit your story ideas, photos and phone videos to us!

NEWSLETTER



The "Knowledge Depot" has new, recurring articles for your interest.

We'll introduce important ERP program topics such as testing, training, cutover and support.

Knowledge Transfer

Initiative for ERP Team

Over the past several weeks, Deloitte Consulting has been providing basic SAP training to our project team and agency representatives. The training culminated in a 3-day session for agency representatives at the EPA from Tuesday, June 14 – Thursday, June 16.

The basic SAP training is one aspect of a larger Knowledge Transfer initiative that goes beyond system training. In a nutshell, Knowledge Transfer (KT) is the process of sharing information, skills, experience, and best practices between selected mentors from Deloitte and State of Illinois team members to enable the State to operate and effectively maintain SAP after pilot implementation.

Read more about the recent training and the KT initiative by clicking here....



Integration Test Cycle 2

Integration Test Cycle 2 (ITC2) launched with a project team kick-off meeting on Thursday, June 9. The primary points covered in the kick-off meeting were:

- Testing objectives and scope
- Focus on achieving entry and exit criteria
- Reinforcement of the testing approach
- An explanation of the timeline

Just a few days after the kick-off meeting, State Functional Experts and Deloitte consultants began testing on Monday, June 13. The team is already seeing that ITC2 is a step up from ITC1 in terms of a larger scope of testing. They'll test a higher number of comprehensive end-to-end scenarios and more RICEFW objects compared to ITC1. During ITC2, our team will test approximately 90 end-to-end scenarios (38 just within the first week).

To learn more about ITC2, please click here.



Pilot Training Introduction

Curious about **HOW** you'll learn the new SAP system? Wondering **WHEN** training will take place? **What** will training look like? We understand that many of you working in the four pilot agencies are asking questions about training. We're starting to answer those questions now that our training plan, approach, design and schedule have been approved. Learn the answers to these questions and more by visiting the pilot training homepage in our Knowledge Depot by clicking here...



- Packet II Update - Integrated Testing



We have successfully exited integration testing Round one for the pilot financials implementation (ITC1) on June 10th. Base SAP functionality and final SAP configuration items were tested and over 100 individual scenarios were passed.

We undergo testing in order to find defects and make necessary adjustments to ensure that they do not affect end users in a production environment. During ITC1, we identified 77 system refinements across 72 scenarios. These refinements were logged, resolved, and retested prior to closing out ITC1.

On June 13, we kicked off integration testing Round 2 (ITC2), which includes the majority of the RICEFW (reports, interfaces, conversions, enhancements, forms, and workflows) development objects. In addition, a comprehensive mock conversion was completed prior to the start of ITC2 in order to test loading legacy data into the SAP system. 19 Conversions were tested and successfully loaded into SAP, and this included over 44 files across the 4 pilot agencies.

We will continue testing scenarios through the end of ITC2, which is scheduled to be completed by July 8, and then there will be a final integration and mock conversion Round 3 prior to commencing user acceptance testing (UAT) in August, so it will be a busy summer of testing in order to prepare for the pilot go-live!

Did you know?

SAP focuses upon 25

industries and six

Industry sectors:

Process

Discrete

Consumer

Financial

and

Public

Services





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STATEWIDE ERP PROGRAM WEBSITE ACCESS:

[Click here to go to the Statewide ERP Program Website](#)

[Website](#)