BP LOGIX CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT

UNC Nutrition Research Institute Adapts Rapidly to COVID-19 With BP Logix

The Nutrition Research Institute, a unit of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, knows all about workflows. Finance, HR, IT, you name it. Which is why they've embraced Process Director from BP Logix for process and workflow management.

They even named their Process Director system TIGRIS (Task InteGrated Research Information System) after the Tigris/Euphrates rivers. As water flows, so does work. However, they never thought they'd have to create new workflows to track expenditures due to COVID-19.

THE UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA at CHAPEL HILL

"Like businesses everywhere," said Eddie Serrano, Deputy Director for Research Business and Operations, "the NRI had to adapt to new procedures, track personnel and other expenses, and implement organizational changes due to COVID-19."

When related federal, state, and university policies for finance and HR were instituted, the NRI had to quickly implement changes to its internal processes to meet the new requirements.

"With Process Director," explained Serrano, "we were able to quickly modify Expense Reimbursement, Invoice Payment, Purchase Orders, and other financial forms to track COVID-19-related expenses. Our new workflow also allows us to easily seek other necessary approvals according to procedural changes instituted by the University."

"Process Director has helped streamline so many of our institute's processes. It's been a huge advantage to have a product that allows us to easily implement changes to our internal processes with a rather quick turnaround time."

- EDDIE SERRANO
UNC NUTRITION RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Facing the challenges of COVID-19

Being able to code expenses so quickly on the front end saved the NRI finance team approximately 100 hours in following up with their laboratories and doing retro campus journals to code the expenses as COVID-19 after the fact.

It's important that the NRI track its COVID-19 related expenses in their grants and general ledgers. Those unexpected expenditures translate to research dollars lost. So, the institute must be able to deliver accurate and timely reports on the financial impact of the pandemic to university, state, and federal sponsors that support its research.

"When it comes to COVID-19 finances, we're able to quickly adapt as needed and be as prepared as we can be for what still may come."

The flexibility inherent in the Process Director design of TIGRIS allows workflow changes to be made quickly. Because these forms had already been incorporated into TIGRIS, it only took one day to spec, build, test, and deploy the changes to the multiple forms used by all 15 NRI research laboratories.

"We've been able to account for and project additional costs to our research projects," continued Serrano. "Currently, we project significant losses just through May 31. At an appropriate time, we'll use actuals to submit accurate progress reports to our sponsors to hopefully recover some of our losses and carryover/extend our research funding."

"Our researchers know that one day soon your health professional will use the science that we develop to provide nutrition recommendations tailored for you, rather than general recommendations you receive now. The funding we receive from NIH, the state, and other sponsors is vital for us to pursue this mission."

About UNC NRI

The University of North Carolina Nutrition Research Institute (NRI) is an internationally recognized center that conducts innovative studies relating to how differences in requirements and responses to diet affect our individual nutritional needs. Their research has led to successes in preventing or mitigating the negative effects of chronic diseases and aging, as well as in improving human development, even prior to conception.

About BP Logix

Process Director from BP Logix allows schools to easily move from paper forms and audit trials to digital ones with automated workflows. It's an out-of-the-box solution that requires little if any coding. Higher-education institutions have reduced implementation time by an average of 70% and improved process responsiveness by 50%.