



STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

Website Updates

★ New *In the Arena* Blog authored by Karsten Christiansen, IT Lead

★ New PORTiCO Poll



The Update

The Update is the official monthly newsletter for status updates related to the student information system (SIS) project at the Defense Acquisition University.

PORTiCO, the official name of this acquisition workforce initiative, is a commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) system that integrates critical capabilities including career training management, schedule development, DAWIA transcripts and reporting. PORTiCO is anticipated to launch in 2012, introducing an easy to use, single destination for all acquisition training and resources.

For more project updates, visit www.dau.mil/sis, and follow the *In the Arena* blog to view team members' perspectives on PORTiCO's progress.

ANTICIPATION—2011 A YEAR IN REVIEW

This time last year, Carly Simon's *Anticipation* lyrics characterized the state of the PORTiCO student information system (SIS) project. After years of market research and campus visits, the SIS team, and the many stakeholders involved in the project, celebrated the end of 2010 by closing out the SIS procurement cycle.

The New Year promised the beginning of implementation and action...and it delivered. On January 18, the General Services Administration awarded the contract to Campus Management Corporation of Boca Raton, Fla. (see [DAU Press Release](#) on award)

Fast forward to December 2011, and Carly Simon has been replaced by the dulcet sounds of the seven dwarves singing *Hi Ho, Hi Ho* as PORTiCO's implementation continues in high gear. In between these two points in time

was a year dedicated to process reviews and revisions, use case development, and the configuration of PORTiCO's leading edge technology.

To manage this ramp up of the implementation process, the PORTiCO team recruited an experienced cadre of individuals to lead key areas of the project. The additional staff brought on board to coordinate the implemen-

tation effort and replace departing members of the original team, proved critical to the management of this very complex undertaking.

The new additions included the following talented individuals (pictured clockwise from top):

- Karsten Christiansen, IT Lead
- Brian Gaines, BPR & Testing Lead
- James Foster, Systems Administrator
- Marcus Lamar, Database Administrator
- David Korrie, Information Assurance Officer
- Barry Krauss, Training, Helpdesk & Portal Lead
- Chloe Jackson, Scheduling & QA Analyst (center)



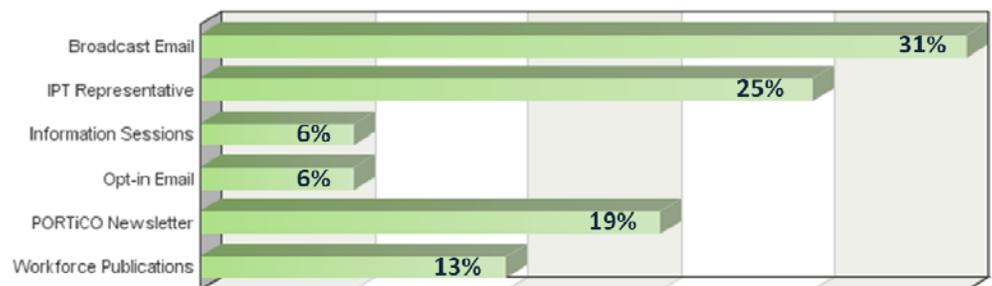
PORTiCO's new team members charged ahead in 2011.

A newly reinforced SIS team continued close col-

Continued on page 2

PORTiCO POLL RESULTS

How would you like to be updated on PORTiCO's (new student information system) progress?



SIS IMPLEMENTATION ROLLS ON

Continued from page 1

laboration with members of the services Acquisition Career Managers and together they dedicated weeks to sharing their domain expertise with the Campus Management team. This period, referred to as the Business Requirements Review (BRR), was an essential knowledge transfer that identifies the gap that must be closed by configuring the solution or rethinking AT&L processes.

The next phase of the implementation process used this BRR context to define use cases with subject matter experts at DAU and the DACM offices. This exhaustive (and exhausting) analysis ensured that the new COTS solution would address every essential process, task, and action necessary to manage the training of the acquisition workforce. The use case review did not aim to replicate existing processes but rather provided ample opportunity to

review what elements of the status quo could be streamlined and improved for better outcomes. Ideally, the introduction of a COTS solution will help the Defense Acquisition Workforce benefit from the best practices of the broader higher education market.

As summer transitioned to fall, the CMC team began the effort to translate these collaborative sessions from documentation to platform development. CMC's system development and configuration effort for the acquisition workforce also coincided with a major new release cycle. This confluence of development activity has enabled more flexibility, but the additional flexibility creates its own challenge: the need to preserve requirements discipline. Nevertheless, as the first year of implementation closes, the vision of a powerful new enterprise platform moves closer to reality.

The year ahead is likely to introduce more challenges. PORTiCO will take on the heavy lifting associated with

integrating 15 distinct systems that support the training and career management of the acquisition workforce—an effort that requires substantial coordination with many third parties. The project will also continue to reinforce its security controls through the DIACAP accreditation process along with the rollout of a comprehensive program for both systems testing and training.



Beyond the challenges, 2012 will set the stage for PORTiCO's "coming out" events. As the configuration phase ends, stakeholders and users will get the chance to refine the system through a rigorous user acceptance testing cycle. On the heels of this testing, PORTiCO's multimodal training program will prepare the way for launch. And the system's long anticipated launch will begin a new chapter for training the acquisition workforce.

"...the vision of a powerful new enterprise platform moves closer to reality."

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE



After concluding the preparatory phase, Business Requirements Review and Business Process Reengineering, PORTiCO is currently being configured and tested ahead of its mid-2012 release.

To keep abreast of PORTiCO's progress or to provide your feedback, visit the website at www.dau.mi/sis, read monthly updates, or contact your IPT representative.

Best wishes for a great **New Year** from the PORTiCO Team!