

## PASSING THE BATON TO SYSTEM USERS

### USER ACCEPTANCE TESTING BEGINS IN DECEMBER 2014

Taking a cue from *The Sound of Music*, the student information system’s project team continued to “...climb every mountain and ford every stream...” in its effort to launch PORTICO in 2015. Toward that end, the PORTICO project reached a major project milestone at the close of 2014: User Acceptance Testing (UAT).

With the finish line now in view, the start of the UAT exercise represents a baton pass to system users. “It’s a great opportunity to have actual users road test the system against their everyday tasks,” remarked Brian Gaines, Center Director, DAU Business Systems. “There’s just no better feedback mechanism as we prepare for deployment.”



Test users representing Acquisition Training Offices (ATOs), faculty, and DAU staff will perform test scripts of common activities during a five cycle process (see timeline on page 2). The initial two cycles will dedicate time and resources to assess the functionality associated with ATO administrative activities. These administrative functions might include activities such as student priority, prerequisites, student swaps, and schedule conflicts. The next three cycles will focus on assessing other end-to-end processes such as registration approvals and transfer credits. Many of these processes will begin with a student action on the student portal, require an administrative action, and ultimately result in

Continued on Page 2

## GATEWAY TO EXCELLENCE

**“Supposing is good, but finding out is better.” —Mark Twain**

# The Update on PORTiCO

## Student Information System Project Brief

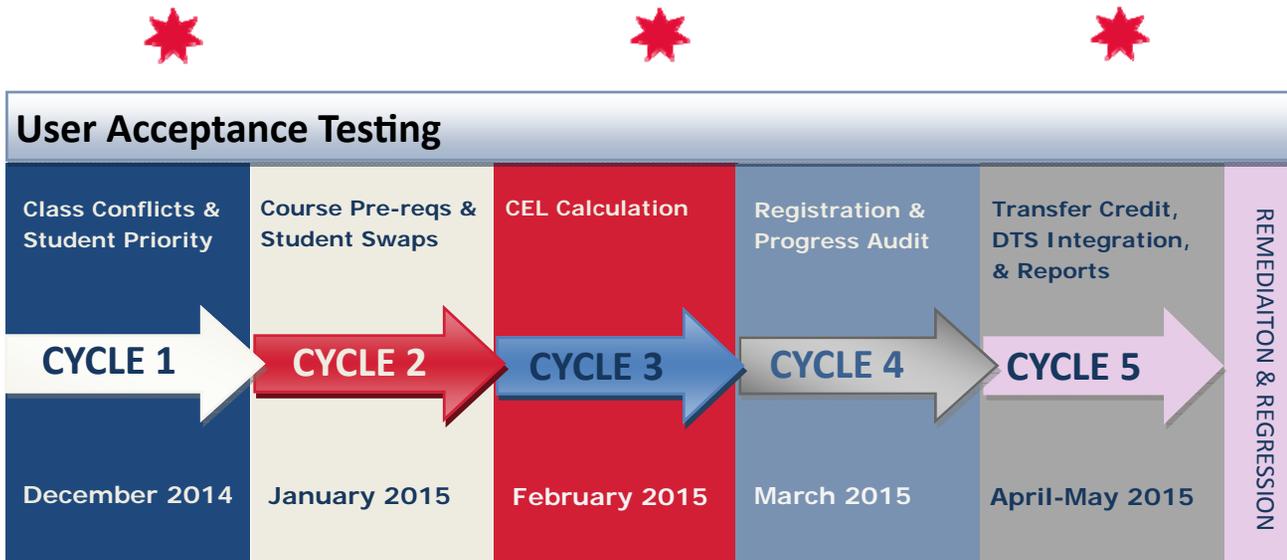
WINTER 2015—Volume 5 Issue 1

communications back to the student. The results of these processes will also find their way into a system report.

This end-to-end testing will confirm the integrity of this complex component of our learning infrastructure and provide valuable feedback on how feature functionality might be improved. While this feedback is important, the more critical goal in this “hand-off” is to get users excited about PORTiCO’s potential.

Getting users to embrace any new system begins by confirming that it delivers “the goods” relative to the business and technical requirements. That, in brief, is the purpose of UAT. Beyond this basic aim, extensive testing of any system demands that users invest significant time to “fine tune” the system against the original requirements. This investment in time and resources helps bridge the gap between user expectations and the system’s capabilities. It also acclimates users to new business processes and change.

During the remaining UAT cycles—as well as remediation and regression cycles that will occur in their wake—the project team will post status updates on the PORTiCO website. We will also use a variety of spring forums to communicate progress toward deployment. To keep informed of milestones and other news, select a date on the calendars on the right margin or go to the website.



### Q2 Project Milestones

Select date to view event brief.\*

#### January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	<b>23</b>	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

#### February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	<b>6</b>	7
8	9	10	<b>11</b>	12	<b>13</b>	14
15	16	<b>17</b>	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

#### March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	<b>4</b>	5	6	7
8	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	14
15	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

\*User Acceptance Testing occurs throughout quarter.