



# STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

## Website Updates

- ★ New *In the Arena* Blog authored by Rick Lux.
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## 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](http://www.dau.mil/sis) and follow the *In the Arena* blog to view team members' perspectives on PORTiCO's progress.

## PORTiCO'S PROGRESS—DAU UPDATE

Last year the DAU Conference was a coming out party of sorts for PORTiCO (aka the student information system). It was the first opportunity to get in front of the enterprise and share the vision for PORTiCO and how it would directly benefit the work done by service career managers and DAU's faculty and staff. One year later with the arrival of autumn's crisp air and the next DAU Conference, it was time to

regroup and give a progress report.

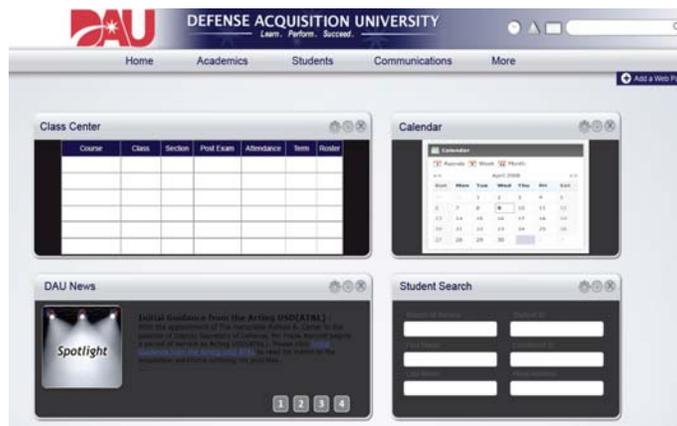
This time around, with the successful procurement of a commercial off the shelf (COTS) solution, it was time to talk about—or rather demonstrate—how PORTiCO was shaping up. More to the point, the PORTiCO team wanted to address how it would ultimately introduce this powerful innovation to DAU and the acquisition work-

force community.

To get started, Brenda Sedlacek, PORTiCO's deputy project manager, delivered an insightful survey of the past year including a quick recap of the new system benefits. This brief introduction sought to orient many of the attendees who had not heard last year's presentation. The headline version of her message was captured in one of her remarks: "A year later, our work with key stakeholders and the Campus Management Corporation—our technology partner—is beginning to bear fruit."

Just after Brenda's introduction, Campus Management transitioned to the "early harvest." Kristen Rumble, Campus Management's Director of Client Strategy (joined by a team of corporate executives and project managers), navigated the audience through

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A view of a personalized PORTiCO portal enabling the user to create a self-defined workspace for ease-of-use and productivity.

## Q&A SESSION: LIVELY LISTENING

True to the purpose of the Four Winds user engagement program, the PORTiCO team wanted to ensure that the DAU Conference session elicited a lively dialogue through the Q&A portion of the session. This interaction between future users and the project team is the best means to get users com-

fortable with this new system.

The question topics ranged across a spectrum that included security, training, and user access. What follows are some of the key questions raised and the corresponding answers:

Q. *Will there be guides*

*and tips to help you along as you navigate the system?*

A. Yes, there will be contextual help embedded in PORTiCO and by that we mean real-time assistance to guide you through the task at hand.

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## DAU CONFERENCE UPDATE—

a live demonstration of a PORTiCO prototype.

The session final segment involved a discussion of the implementation process. The forum was led by Adrienne Schmidt (Student Services Coordinator, Mid Atlantic Region) who interviewed a panel of SIS Team members on how the new system would be deployed successfully. The panelists, including Ron

Vassallo (project lead for communications & organizational change management); Brian Gaines (project lead for user acceptance testing); and, Barry Krauss (project lead for training and security), introduced the concept of Four Winds user engagement to the audience.

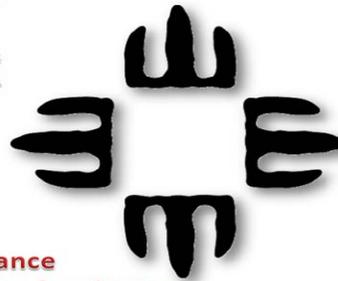
As explained by Ron Vassallo, “Four Winds user engagement aims to give key users many ways to

interact with PORTiCO before it goes live.” The basic premise behind Four Winds is to drive successful adoption of PORTiCO by familiarizing users throughout the implementation process. Each member of the panel elaborated on how that would be accomplished and the initiatives ranged from an open invitation for DAU staff & faculty to participate in user acceptance testing to a robust, multimodal training program aimed at delivering the most pertinent training to each user.

The complete presentation along with a copy of the slides can be viewed on DAU-Net: <https://daunet.dau.mil/newsInfoDAUConference2011/2011schedule.aspx>

Highlights of the presentation will also be added to the website in the coming days.

**Four Winds User Engagement:**  **What does it mean?**



**Fostering user acceptance through comprehensive familiarity with the implementation process.**

Getting users better acquainted with PORTiCO early and often

*“PORTiCO’s Four Winds user engagement program aims to give key users many ways to interact with PORTiCO before it goes live.”*

## LIVELY LISTENING CONTINUED...

**Q. Will SSNs be in the SIS or will there be unique individual ids?**

A. There will be no SSNs in PORTiCO. The system will use individual DAU IDs. Ideally these unique IDs will be the same currently used for accessing ATLAS.

**Q. How do you know if the system is primetime and what do you do if it isn’t?**

A. User acceptance testing will be rigorous and

will try to surface show-stoppers and critical gaps well before going live so they can be addressed. If a critical element is missing or not performing to expectation we will not launch until it has been resolved.

**Q. How will training differ to engage the generational differences at DAU?**

A. The training will be multimodal so that users will have multi-

ple opportunities, based on their roles, to familiarize themselves with the new system. We’re going to try to deliver training media that’s pertinent to how specific users learn best. For some that means self-directed training, others require highly visual guidance, and still others will need dedicated time in a practice lab.

*To hear the many questions raised at the session, please select the link below to view the entire presentation:* <https://daunet.dau.mil/newsInfo/DAUCONFERENCE2011/2011schedule.aspx>.