

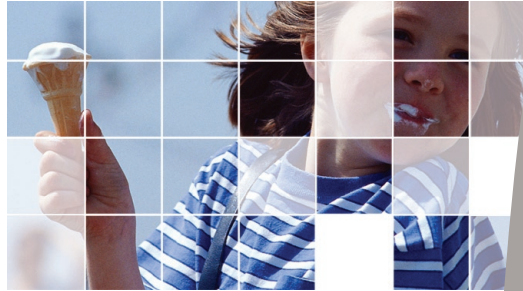


Technology Solutions for Tomorrow

The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

Case Study: Department implements demand driven web application for USDA Commodities.

The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) prides itself on its leadership position in the education of North Dakotans. As part of this effort, Child Nutrition Director Kathryn Grafsgaard led an initiative to bring Child Nutrition business processes to the internet. This ambitious goal has been realized through the use of public domain software obtained following the implementation of a similar system for the state of Minnesota. The final phase of this system, managing food distribution services, was implemented by Albertson Consulting.



“With the capable guidance, support, and assistance from your staff, the system is now in production managing the distribution of USDA commodities to schools and other agencies in the state.”

Kathy Grafsgaard, Director
Child Nutrition &
Food Distribution Programs
ND Department of Public Instruction

Re-engineered Business Processes

Commodity distribution to North Dakota schools was based on the NDDPI making purchasing decisions and distributing commodities to the sites. Although the supply driven process was efficient in distributing foods to local schools, it did not allow them the choice in food products they desired.

Albertson Consulting helped NDDPI meet this challenge by leading a business process re-engineering effort focused on converting to a demand driven process. Districts are now able to enter commodity choices in a secure online environment, allowing state administrators to make better choices on purchases from the USDA.

The Solution

Albertson Consulting rebuilt the Minnesota system to fit the improved North Dakota business processes. The application includes a fully functional warehouse management and inventory control module. It also features a billing system that allows the state to record payments made to the warehouse and allows the warehouse to view any outstanding invoices.

The application utilizes a custom system for recording, managing, and reporting on discrepancies as they occur in the system. Inventory that is damaged or lost is written to reports that are sent to the state administrator by email along with an explanation from the user entering the information. This portion of the system allows the state administrator to make any necessary adjustments in the system.

Reaping the Benefits

The J2EE compliant web application includes customized features such as automatic email notifications, integrated real time reports, and online billing and invoicing systems. These advanced tools facilitate communication between the state and its customers and provide an integrated audit trail for state and federal requirements.

Call us today to discuss your specific needs.

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Dr. Wayne G. Sanstead
State Superintendent

November 19, 2002

Dan Albertson, CEO
Albertson Consulting
13 1st Ave SW Suite 304
Minot, ND 58701-3848

Dear Mr. Albertson,

It is with pleasure that I have this opportunity to express our satisfaction with the services that your firm has provided during the development, design, and implementation of Phase II of the Food and Nutrition Programs (FNP) system for the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI). With the capable guidance, support and assistance from your staff, the system is now in production managing the distribution of USDA commodities to schools and other agencies in the state.

We appreciated the in-depth business process analysis provided by Mike Blessum. The analysis led to a system that has greatly improved our food distribution system, and facilitated greater communication with our customers. Feedback from all system users has been generally positive. Most impressive is the fact that your staff has exhibited an ongoing interest and concern in sustaining and improving the system post-implementation. This commitment to our success is appreciated.

Warehouse and management personnel at Booth have provided positive feedback on the warehousing, inventory management, and distribution portions of the system. A centralized inventory system was one of our requirements for the application, and we are pleased with this portion of the development.

Local users have adjusted well to the new demand driven system that you helped us design and implement. They have found that making good decisions on their USDA commodity preferences allows them to make smarter purchases on other menu items. The changes to the user interface that you introduced in Phase II have been very well received. Customers have found this portion of the system to be more intuitive and much more in line with what they have come to expect from web-based programs. I have also been pleased with the formal and informal training that ACI personnel has provided throughout system development and implementation.

The NDDPI chose Albertson Consulting because your proposal demonstrated a good value to the state. You have proven this decision to be a good one as you have worked with us through the adjustments in timelines without allowing the budget to slip. Additionally, your hard work and strong understanding of our business goals has led us to contract with you for system enhancements.

Please consider this my recommendation to organizations that may consider your services, and feel free to contact me as a reference.

I wish continued success to you and your organization.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Grafsgaard, Director
Child Nutrition and Food Distribution Programs