A monthly newsletter tracking Tennessee Tech's progress toward implementation of its new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system.
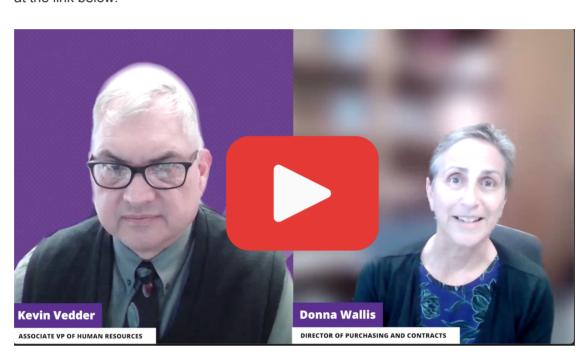
November 2024

This month's project activities have been focused on Conference Room Pilot 1 (CRP 1), which is the initial testing of the Talon system by functional project team members. This effort will continue through the middle of December.

The third meeting of the Business Partner Network was held on Nov. 20th, which included a question and answer session with topics and discussion that included how Talon will serve as the sole platform and data repository for all business, finance and HR activities; interfaces that will be built between Talon and Banner Student to exchange data; reporting capabilities for both standard and ad-hoc needs; confirmation that the current terminology used for the Chart of Accounts AKA FOAPAL, will be replaced with a completely new chart structure (stay tuned for more information about this in future articles) and how business processes currently using DocuSign will be built into Talon using automated workflows.

Talon Talks

In this month's Talon Talks, Kevin Vedder, associate vice president for human resources, sits down with Donna Wallis, director of purchasing and contracts, to discuss progress on Talon implemention and specifically how Talon's built-in supplier portal will make day-to-day tasks easier for Tech faculty and staff and the vendors they work with. **Watch here** or at the link below:

Exciting enhancements coming soon with Talon

When the Talon system is implemented, it will provide users at all levels (e.g., employees, supervisors, department administrators, business units, etc.) the ability to handle a variety of HR transactions using what Oracle calls "Journeys" to handle such things as creating offer letters, setting up and onboarding a new employee, requesting parental leave, and updating employee-specific information.

These "Journeys" will replace current processes that are handled through DocSign, including Personnel Action Forms (PAFs).

Another exciting and time-saving change is how I9s will be processed. Currently, all employees must go to the HR Office to have their identification verified. The new process will enable new hires to upload their identification and have it verified using a secure, digital platform.

Talon Testimonial: Donna Wallis - Director of Purchasing and Contracts

Each month, we provide a short message from a member of our university community with their perspective on the importance of our transition to Talon and how it will benefit our students, faculty, and staff.
Find this month's message below:

"The great thing about Talon that stands out is that it will be more of a 'one-stop shop' experience. Currently, in the area of Purchasing and Contracts, campus users have to bounce back and forth between forms posted on the Purchasing webpage and forms embedded into Eagle Buy. So folks are expected to just know where to go, which forms to complete, which documents to attach, and in what order to do all of those steps. Talon will provide campus buyers with a user-friendly landing page which we hope will make purchasing and contracting processes simpler. Also, Eagle Buy and Banner have to communicate seamlessly in real-time in order for purchasing and accounts payable processes to work. Although it might not always be apparent to campus users, that communication often breaks down, causing requisitions and invoices to 'hang up' until the issue can be resolved. With Talon, those processes will reside in one platform, eliminating those types of delays."

-Donna Wallis, Director of Purchasing and Contracts

Stay connected

Visit the Talon project website at **www.tntech.edu/talon** that contains project information, news, and resources, and please reach out to the Talon team members anytime with questions or feedback at **erptalon@tntech.edu**.

You can also stay apprised of our implementation timeline **here** and find a list of frequently asked questions **here**.