



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

## MARCH 2025

March proved to be a busy and fruitful month for the Talon project. On the heels of the Pay Frequency Town Hall meeting that was held on February 27, which was well-attended both in-person and virtually, the Talon Project Team created new resources for the campus community to keep up to date on the project's progress. One such resource is the addition of a [Campus Forums](#) tab on the Talon site, which allows visitors to catch up on information they may have missed.

The Talon Project Team also continued their Conference Room Pilot 2 (CRP 2) efforts, giving participants the opportunity to reflect on the knowledge transfer process.

CoA: Segments and Definitions

|                       | Entity  | Organization   | Fund  | Fund Type  | Account   | Functional Class   | Unspecified Value Entry Allowed  |   |   | System Generated                          |   |
|-----------------------|---|--|---|--|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|
|                       |   |  |   |  |   |  | Program  | Activity  | Site  | Future                                    | Intercompany  |
| Name and Abbreviation | Company segment, Primary Balancing  | Cost Center Segment  |   | Secondary Balancing  | Account Segment   |  |  |   |   |   | Intercompany Segment  |
| Question              | Who?  | Who?   | How?  | How?   | What?   | Why?   | Why?   | Why?  | Where?  | TBD                                       | With Whom?  |
| Width                 | 3   | 6  | 6   | 3  | 6   | 3  | 3  | 4   | 3   | 3   | 3   |
| Definitions           | Identifies the major operational unit within the institution responsible for the transaction. | Represents the academic, administrative, or operating unit responsible for or affected by a given transaction. | Individual portion of money that is budgeted for or funded and spent against, tracked source and use. | High-level classification used to categorize and report on the overall restrictions and designation of the Fund (Net Asset Class). | Categorizes the nature of the transaction as a specific type of revenue, expense, asset, liability or fund balance. | Used to designate the FA&C cost / NACUBO classification of the transaction as a specific mission. Meaningful value required only for expenses. (Current "Program") | Records transactions with a <del>functional</del> classification of ongoing cross-disciplinary or department activities. | Used to understand the costs and/or revenues generated by a particular activity or event. | Tracks revenue and expense activities to a specific operating location such as a building, campus, etc. | Configured and left blank for future use. | Recording off-set entry on due to and due from entries for cross-entity transactions. |

This system also gives the Project Team valuable insights into testing session best practices while advancing through identified segments outlined in the Chart of Accounts (COA). The new COA was solidified and will serve as the foundational accounting structure for compiling, tracking, and recording transactions across the university. The overview of the COA chart is outlined above.

## Talon Talks

In the March 2025 edition of "Talon Talks," Matt Smith, Director of Financial Services and Functional Lead for Accounts



Receivable and Cash Management, discusses his role in the implementation of Talon and what he is most looking forward to as the project moves forward. [Watch here](#) or by clicking the image at left.

## What's Ahead in April

The Project Team will continue working on system design, testing, and configuration following CRP 2, culminating with the first system-wide integration test (SIT 1) in early May. The ERP team will be conducting additional testing and validation of the COA that will replace the existing chart with a new account structure and continued development of the Project Portfolio Management (PPM) module to be used for grant accounting and management. The change management team will be developing and finalizing a training plan to support the implementation of the Talon system.



Given the high level of resource requirements and the strategic importance of this project, we remind our campus customers that while we will strive to maintain and provide support and assistance to ongoing campus operations, there may be some delays as a result of project-related activities, and we appreciate your continued patience and understanding.

## Talon Testimonial

## Don't Forget

Visit the Talon project website at [www.tntech.edu/talon/](http://www.tntech.edu/talon/) that contains project information, news, and resources.

Please reach out to the Talon team members anytime with questions or feedback at [erptalon@tntech.edu](mailto:erptalon@tntech.edu).

## Save the Date



## MATT SMITH

Director of Financial  
Services and Functional  
Lead for Accounts  
Receivable and Cash  
Management

I am genuinely excited for Talon because Tennessee Tech has the opportunity to holistically reset and improve our Business and Human Resource operations for the first time in 20 years. I believe our workforce and business processes deserve this opportunity to leverage new technology, efficiencies, and best practices.

I kind of look at our ERP Systems like a car that the university drives. Sure, everyone is comfortable with the car they have continued to drive for two decades. That old car is what we know, and it just makes us comfortable. I also know when you buy a new car it feels a little weird at first, but it quickly starts to grow on you and feel very comfortable as you continue to learn to use the new features and how it drives. I think Talon will play out the same way with campus. The change will feel weird at first, but before long, Tennessee Tech will be glad we made the change!

Spring Campus Town Hall to provide an in-person and virtual update on the status of the Talon project will be held from 2:00-3:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 23, in Bell Hall 282. President Oldham and Dr. Stinson are scheduled to present.

You can also stay apprised of our implementation timeline [here](#) and find a list of frequently asked questions [here](#).



**TALON**  

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**TENNESSEE TECH**