



## Business impact

“In the past, even simple tasks such as tracking budget status were next to impossible. But with SAS, not only can we do the simpler budget-related tasks, but also more complex things, like determining how effective our spending is.”

— Patti Barney, CIO, Broward Community College

## Challenges

- Inability to tie strategy to planning.**  
Absence of good budget support practices and unwieldy systems mean there's no flexibility to tie strategic goals to the planning process.
- Lack of collaboration.** Different departments perform the same functions in a vacuum, with no way to share information and avoid duplication of effort among departments.
- Lack of financial reporting detail.** Limited reporting categories only give account summaries, which aren't broad or detailed enough to accommodate every department's needs.
- Inefficient budgeting processes.** Cumbersome spreadsheet preparation and other manual budget development processes slow down progress and tie up resources.
- Disparate systems.** Different departments use varying methods and tools for budget development and analysis, so it's nearly impossible to get one version of the truth.



**THE  
POWER  
TO KNOW®**

## How can we make our budgeting and planning processes more streamlined and transparent?

### YOUR GOAL: Improve operational efficiency and financial management

Almost half of all undergraduate students in the US are enrolled in community colleges, in large measure because such institutions make higher education more accessible to the general population. But access alone isn't enough. The national initiative *Achieving the Dream* is aimed at not only improving access, but on supporting student groups—e.g., low-income and minority—who have traditionally faced barriers to success. In support of such initiatives, educational institutions are expected to find ways to facilitate better decisions, streamline routine processes and drive operational efficiencies. But lack of operational efficiency, particularly in the area of financial management, is a real problem for many institutions.

Outdated systems and processes are unable to support strategic, institutionwide planning and budgeting. Such systems are typically slow, disjointed and error-prone. There's no solid information on where and how money is being spent, and without that kind of information, funds are likely to be misallocated. Moreover, such inefficiency and lack of accountability will likely be reflected in accreditation reporting, which can result in the loss of accreditation. And if the college loses accreditation, it loses funding as well.

### OUR APPROACH

With rising expectations for improved performance, increasing pressure to provide affordable, accessible programs, and growing accountability and transparency requirements, institutions must become more strategic and proactive in planning and budgeting decisions. We approach the problem by delivering software and services to help you:

- Ensure a single version of the truth** by centralizing all relevant data from every source using interactive data integration capabilities with imbedded data quality techniques to ensure accurate, consistent information without overburdening IT.
- Empower users, regardless of skill level, to analyze trends, predict scenarios and identify significant correlations in data** with access to advanced analytics and predictive modeling capabilities via an interface tailored to their skills and needs.
- Give stakeholders access to the information they need** with self-service reporting that lets them access, generate and interact with reports in their chosen format.
- Ease the pains of financial consolidation and reporting** with a transparent, collaborative environment that lets you perform on-demand consolidations and produce reports that are timely, accurate and relevant.
- Create confident plans and more accurate budgets** with imbedded forecasting analytics along with capabilities for workflow control and collaboration that facilitate better communication and faster planning cycles.
- Achieve greater accountability and manage the execution of strategy across departments** with a transparent Web-based solution for dashboards and scorecards.

The SAS® solution enables you to assess today's needs, set strategy and take action to accomplish tomorrow's goals with an integrated framework that makes the most of your existing IT investments while providing a path for growth.

## THE SAS® DIFFERENCE: Accurate, in-depth intelligence across the institution

Only SAS delivers end-to-end capabilities that enable you to pull information together, analyze it and then make it available throughout the entire organization. With SAS, you get:

- **Powerful forecasting technology** that lets you identify previously unseen trends and anticipate fluctuations so you can more effectively plan for the future.
- **Personalized user interfaces in a variety of formats**—Web browsers, Microsoft Office, etc.—that let users with different skill sets at all levels access data (presented in user-friendly terms), analyze it using simple point-and-click functionality, and format it to meet individual requirements, so all levels of users can have the most advanced technology available at their fingertips, without having to learn a new system.
- **Single vendor support**, with a framework that allows you to make the most of your existing IT investment while growing along with you to meet future needs, without having to cobble together multiple solutions from a variety of vendors.

Since 1976, SAS has demonstrated a commitment to creating a culture of leadership, authenticity and accountability in education by providing the best tools for aligning resources with evidence-based outcomes for more effective and efficient learning throughout the education life cycle.

## CASE STUDY: Broward Community College (BCC) of Broward County, Florida

### Situation

BCC's manually intensive financial consolidation processes took so much time that no time was left to analyze results. Planning and budgeting varied widely across departments, and the ERP system's limited reporting capabilities couldn't provide the detail needed for a complete, accurate picture of the multicampus institution. BCC began looking for ways to streamline processes, as well as tie budgeting to programs and programs to strategic objectives. But with a strategy that existed largely on paper and in complex mainframe reports, third-party data systems and manual reconciliation systems, the challenges BCC faced were enormous.

### Solution

SAS delivered a consolidated planning, budgeting and forecasting solution, which provided BCC with:

- Access to huge volumes of data anywhere, anytime.
- Delivery of data in a usable, easy-to-understand format.
- Advanced analytics to foster more informed decision making.
- Reports accessible via a portal, with the ability to drill down to details.

### Results

- A simplified collegewide financial consolidation and reporting process.
- Ability to access relevant data without having to rely on IT.
- Faster, more accurate planning and budgeting, plus more time to analyze results.
- Fact-based decision support at all locations in a multicampus environment.



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## The vision

### Interactive data integration

What if all relevant data was available whenever you need it in the format you require, without having to submit a request to the IT department?

### Advanced analytics

What if decision makers in every department could use advanced statistical techniques to predict future scenarios or analyze variances and trends through an interface that was tailored to their individual needs and skills?

### Self-service reporting

What if stakeholders had access to timely reports whenever they needed them in the format and level of detail they require?

### Financial management

What if financial consolidation was a painless process that yielded timely results in which you had complete confidence?

### Accurate forecasting

What if you could quickly and easily generate accurate forecasts that would enable more strategic planning collegewide?

### Performance management

What if you could assess today's needs, set appropriate strategy and take confident action to accomplish tomorrow's goals — and check your progress toward those goals at any point along the way?

## SAS FACTS

- SAS software and solutions are licensed and implemented at more than 2,000 colleges and universities worldwide.
- The SAS Academic Program works closely with faculty, students, researchers and other education leaders to ask complex questions and deliver innovative answers.
- Since 1976, SAS has delivered the latest technology to higher education customers around the globe.

Learn more about SAS® software and services for education at:  
[www.sas.com/edu](http://www.sas.com/edu)