

Case study

Florida Virtual Campus Uses Projectplace to Manage Projects, People and Portfolio

About Florida Virtual Campus

The Florida Virtual Campus (FLVC) is a statewide provider of innovative educational services for Florida's kindergarten to graduate degree (K-20) community. Working collaboratively with the state's 12 public universities, 28 public colleges, kindergarten to twelve (K-12) school districts, and other partners, FLVC provides services that helps students succeed in school and life after graduation.

Challenge: Launch New Project in Short Timeframe

FLVC wanted to overhaul its website to benefit students and meet legislative requirements. The vision was to create a newly designed website to provide online access to educational services for high school and postsecondary students across the state. New state mandates would mean FLVC would need to launch its new site in only a few months. Organizational changes and student demands only added to the sense of urgency.

It was decided the project should be rolled out in two phases. Phase one included updating existing website content and redoing the design. Phase two was to apply the new brand, "Florida Shines". Susanne Korta, project manager led this initiative for FLVC PMO.

"We desperately needed a project collaboration tool and this project was the ideal environment to test one," she says. "With 18 team members across Florida, more than 20 stakeholders and subject matter experts, multiple vendors, an out-of-state graphic design firm and lots of changes throughout the process, we had to find a way to bring all of the moving parts together without having to physically be together."

Solution: Projectplace to Bring Synergy to a Dispersed Team

FLVC was already using Planview Enterprise and after attending the Planview Customer Conference, Korta was convinced Projectplace was the answer.



Overview

Customer:

Florida Virtual Campus

Industry:

Education

Geographies:

Florida

Florida Virtual Campus implemented Projectplace as its centralized solution for planning, task management, communications, collaboration and document storage on all of its projects across the organization.

“We love the flexibility of the tool and how much more it can do than emails. The way we were doing things in the past now seem so antiquated.”

– Susanne Korta, Project Manager

She obtained approval to purchase licenses and decided to pilot Projectplace for a year. The plan was to evaluate the tool after every project by asking users to complete a survey. The subsequent data revealed the project was working and people adopted it quickly, even without extensive training.

“Projectplace provided a great virtual ‘home base’ for the project. This was particularly useful for us because we had FLVC staff and external consultants working from a variety of geographic locations,” said FLVC team member.

Korta and her team fully utilized the features of Projectplace. The more it was used, the more “synergy” it built amongst team members. The survey revealed 90 percent of the respondents felt the team communicated effectively because all conversations were happening in Projectplace instead of disorganized emails.

Korta said the Plan and Boards features were a favorite with developers and administrators who were hungry to track and manage different tasks more efficiently. After using Projectplace for the first few projects, they were hooked. The real time updates, conversations and assignments were so well-received, other areas of the business took notice. “Projectplace allows us to see our projects in a whole new way,” she says. “Before, we didn’t have one place for plans, tasks, documents and conversations.”

Projectplace provides a centralized hub to organize documents as well as assignments and activities. It eliminates the confusion of where to find things, who owns the assets, what’s been accomplished in a project, and all of the conversations around the tasks within the project. In the survey, 100 percent of the respondents said they could access their documents, compared with 30 percent before Projectplace.

“Being able to track documents and conversations in real time

has reduced our reliance on emails significantly,” says Korta. “We have dashboards with all project members and their cards linked directly to activities. The pie chart shows us how many cards we have left and how many we have completed, with the ability to drill into the details. We love the flexibility of the tool and how much more it can do than emails. The way we were doing things in the past now seem so antiquated.”

Results: A Well-Rounded Solution for Project Management and Execution

Since deploying Projectplace,

- Users believe they have an intuitive, easy to use collaboration tool they enjoy
- The new website launched within the tight timeframe allotted
- The integration to Planview Enterprise 11.4 will pull in all of the data from Projectplace to further enhance both solutions and foster complete portfolio and resource management

To learn more about what Projectplace can do for you, visit Projectplace.com

