

# Hinds Community College Streamlines Legacy Systems with Workday

## THE CHALLENGE

Manual processes and disconnected systems that limited visibility

Hinds Community College struggled with lengthy manual processes that inhibited collaboration and limited visibility into the overall institution, prompting the change from legacy systems toward modernization. Hinds had more than 14,000 general ledger accounts in its financials system, and it was the only way to gain insight into the current budget. Reporting for thousands of GL accounts took three staff members multiple days to complete each month, and Hinds leaders knew this was not sustainable.

“ I could not feel better about the choice of Workday, particularly the choice of Avaap, and the opportunities that are available to Hinds as a result of this partnership.”

– Tamisha Johnson, Director, Hinds Community College

In addition to seeking to improve business processes, Hinds student enrollment was growing, and legacy systems could not keep up with the needs and expectations of the changing student population. Students expected a modern, consumer-grade experience yet experienced difficulty registering for classes, and faculty were spending time on inefficient processes that could be better spent with students.

Tamisha Johnson, Hinds director of Technology said of their digital transformation, “We decided to move forward with ERP modernization because we knew we had to provide a better experience for students, faculty, and staff and our legacy tools were unable to keep up. Switching to Workday allows us to put finance and HCM in the cloud, bring self-service functionality to our users, and connect the Student system for real-time information into our campus.”



## At a glance

- Largest community college in Mississippi
- Six campuses across five counties
- More than 12,000 students
- HBCU designation

## Solutions

- Workday Finance
- Workday HCM
- Workday Student

## Solution Highlights

- Streamlined processes and improved efficiency
- Improved visibility across the college
- Speed to value of new functionality



## **SOLUTION: WORKDAY HCM, FINANCIALS, AND STUDENT**

Hinds looked to Workday to bring extensive transformation to every aspect of the college's daily processing for accounting, HR, and payroll. As part of the project, Hinds engaged Avaap in the deployment of Workday Financials. Workday maintains a single line of code in a strong, safe, and secure multi-tenant environment, moving Hinds from a transactional system to a true reporting and analytics-based solution. The first phase of the project focused on transforming the institution's current practices, streamlining processes, and bringing the college to a single source of data on which to make strategic decisions.

To improve the student experience through transparency and accessibility as well as have an end-to-end student life cycle system, Hinds selected Workday Student, gaining a single system of record for managing all student data, from admissions to graduation, including academic records, enrollment, financial aid, and more.

Cultural fit was an important factor in the decision to select Avaap as a deployment partner. Hinds wanted to work with an organization that understood how the institution operated, and ultimately become a partner in providing the best solutions for Hinds Community College. Avaap assembled a diverse and experienced team that fostered relationships and demonstrated interest in learning how to best support Hinds as they modernized processes.



Avaap acts as a true partner with a team that was genuine and has had our best interest at heart," said Johnson. "Culture fit was a huge determining factor for us, and our instinct was right with that assessment. I have been continually impressed with all layers of the Avaap organization and could not feel better about our choice in Avaap and Workday."

## **RESULTS: GREATER VISIBILITY AND IMPROVED STAFF EFFICIENCY**

Hinds realized the benefits of its Workday deployment in many instances but has seen immense value in concise, efficient reporting that was not possible in their legacy system. Reports in Workday are generated with ease and provide the college better snapshots of current revenue activity in real-time, transforming their ability to respond to changing business conditions. Students are also reporting an easier time registering for classes and the ability to find what they need in their student portal.

In Hinds' previous system, in order to close out the fiscal year, the system would have to be quiet mode with no user access or transactions happening, and it would take up to six hours to close out the fiscal year. In Workday, takes less than 30 minutes.

Workday has enabled Hinds to transform itself. The benefits of a streamlined solution have saved hours on administrative work, allowed staff to get a clear view of critical functions and be more efficient, and improve the student experience.

"Before our digital transformation, it used to take three people in accounting multiple days every month to create our board reports," added Johnson. "That was more than 3,000 minutes each month that the group of three was investing in generating reports. When I ran the board reports in Workday, I did it myself in 21 minutes."

**HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE** is Mississippi's oldest and largest community college. Founded in 1917, Hinds is comprised of six campuses, with its main campus in Raymond, MS. Hinds serves more than 25,000 students each year. The college's Utica campus retains its Historically Black College and University (HBCU) designation and traditions from its Utica Junior College merger in the 1980s. Hinds offers more than 70 academic programs, including two-year technical programs, post-secondary career programs, secondary career education, and short-term training and continuing education.

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