

BETTER TOGETHER: HOW TWO INSTITUTIONS JOINED FOR THE GREATER GOOD



INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE

Roosevelt University is a private university with campuses in Chicago, Peoria, and Schaumburg, Illinois. Founded in 1945, the university is named in honor of both former President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. The university enrolls around 5,000 students between its undergraduate and graduate programs. Roosevelt is also home to the Chicago College of Performing Arts.

"SIG DIDN'T DO IT AS CONSULTANTS BUT AS TEAM MEMBERS. EVERYONE WAS ON THE FRONT LINE WORKING VERY HARD, LONG HOURS NOT JUST GETTING THE JOB DONE BUT GUIDING US FROM EXPERIENCE AND TEACHING US ALONG THE WAY. AT THE HEART OF OUR SUCCESS WAS NOT SOME CORPORATE PHILOSOPHY BUT THE SIG STAFF THAT HELPED US MAKE THE GREATEST IMPACT." - ERIC VUILLEMOT, ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT, ENTERPRISE APPLICATIONS

PROJECT BACKGROUND

In the spring of 2020, Roosevelt University acquired Robert Morris University, Illinois (RMUI). Both non-profit institutions were dealing with increased enrollment pressures in the challenging Chicago market and determined that combining the two institutions would create a single entity that could better serve student demand for modern educational programs. The union would leverage both universities key legacy strengths with Roosevelt focused on providing graduate studies and Robert Morris focusing on career and two-year programs.

There were many challenges that came along with the integration of technology, data, process, and people. The institutions came together to successfully overcome these obstacles, forming a singular institution to serve their community.

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The goal was to combine business operations in less than four months by creating a new Ellucian Banner® environment to support the combined institutions, including legacy RMU students. Roosevelt selected SIG as their partner and the team accomplished the following tasks, creating a smooth transition for students, faculty and staff:

- New business processes were created to support the combined institutions requirements
- A fit/gap was conducted to understand differences and create unified solutions
- Technology assessed to develop the supporting architecture
- Data structures assessed from both institutions to support consolidation and planning
- Implementation activities included:
 - » A plan and budget were created
 - » Creation of a new Ellucian Banner environment
 - » Ellucian Banner configuration
 - » Data conversion (Jenzabar data to Banner)
 - » Testing, training and troubleshooting
 - » Go-live and post go-live support

BENEFIT/VALUE

The combined staff from Roosevelt, Robert Morris, and the SIG consultants worked together as a team, and everyone kept an open mind and was willing to adapt and change as needed. This high-performing team was able to accomplish:

- A 4-month implementation, when the average time for a project of this magnitude was 12-16 months
- An entire ERP/Ellucian Banner infrastructure that was completely created with new HW and SW
- Updated application security providing a “single sign on” to all systems
- Project completed on-time and on-budget

HOW SIG CAN HELP

For institutions considering a merger, acquisition, and/or the consolidation of multiple ERP instances, SIG can assist with:

- Aligning business processes to support a consolidated environment using SIG’s Rapid Process Improvement framework
- Understanding and planning for associated technology requirements (on premise or in the cloud) utilizing SIG’s technology scan assessment methodology
- Streamline data consolidation by implementing automated routines
- Planning and project management
- Functional and technical implementation assistance including configuration, testing, training, go-live and post go-live support

