Moderas™ Partners With The College of St Rose

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Moderas™ Partnership expected to yield a jump start on a Time and Effort Module for Kuali Coeus:

Collaboration aims at improving software engineering education for students with real project management and development expectations.

Albany, New York — December 12, 2013 — When companies and universities work together they become a powerful engine for innovation and growth. The story's no different when Moderas™ partnered with an upper-level Software Engineering class at the College of St. Rose to develop a Time and Effort Reporting module for the open source Kuali Coeus product.

Kuali Coeus (KC) relies on the collaborative efforts of a number of institutions as well as commercial affiliates. As with any product there can be gaps in functionality. KC is no different. Occasionally new or enhanced functionality is requested by the research administration community but has yet to be addressed by the Kuali Foundation.

Specifically, in 2004, the federal government required investigators to track effort applied to federal grants (as stated in 2 CFR 220 here [www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars_a021_2004]).

Moderas™ believes that research administration software should address your current as well as future needs. With that in mind Moderas™ set out to bridge the Time and Effort reporting gap, while partnering with students at St. Rose to provide a real-world project experience.

"Higher education has the ability to be innovative, but what is often lacking is an authentic experience for students. Partnering with Moderas™ allowed us insight into the challenges they face daily. More than that, they were able to provide specific industry knowledge and experience to make this a real opportunity," said Elizabeth MacDonald, St. Rose Adjunct Instructor.

The students were provided a set of actual business requirements for the project. Their goals included drilling into and further defining requirements, creating mock-ups of screen designs, designing the technical portions of the system, developing code, testing, deploying code to servers, and everything in between. Throughout the semester Moderas™ presented on topics ranging from requirement gathering to testing to project management and were able to provide the class with real time feedback and invaluable expertise.

"We knew we would be providing the functional requirements, much like our clients do for us,"

said Chris Thompson, Co-Founder of Moderas™. "What we didn't anticipate is the students really dug into the breadth of our knowledge base; asking insightful and thoughtful questions relating to all aspects of the services we offer our clientele."

To further enhance the experience the class divided themselves into two competing teams. Each team is working within the same specifications and leveraged the experience of the instructor and Moderas™ to reach their goals.

"Our goal was to produce more than just a product; we focused on enhancing the learning process while providing students an opportunity to work on a real project for an actual customer; not just something out of a textbook", said Adam Myatt, Chief Information Officer at Moderas™.

 At the end of the term both teams will present their final product.

 Moderas™ continues to demonstrate not only their commitment to KC and the research administration community by taking the lead on this much anticipated functionality, but to higher education and the future of software development by providing these students with a realistic expectation.

Success today demands collaboration. What Moderas™ and the College of St. Rose have created here moves beyond one single product. It's a step in the right direction to furthering the education of our future software engineers. After all, in most cases, the biggest investments won't be in hardware or software, but in people.

About Moderas™:

Moderas™ specializes in web-based electronic research administration (eRA) solutions developed on the open source Kuali Coeus platform. Find more about Moderas™ here [www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars_a021_2004]. Follow us on Twitter @Moderas or Like Us on Facebook!

About the Kuali Foundation:

The Kuali Foundation develops open source software for the full range of higher education institutional needs. Kuali Coeus is the Kuali Foundation's functionally equivalent electronic research administration (eRA) platform, and was developed based on the proven MIT Coeus system. They believe that community-source software is only as successful as the community that builds it. Find more about the Kuali Foundation here [www.kuali.org/].