



Intellitec Solutions

Nonprofit Graduate School Streamlines Accounting & Reduces IT Costs with Sage Intacct

Founded in 1990, the Institute of World Politics is an accredited, nonprofit graduate school of national security and international affairs located in Washington, D.C. Students are offered a highly specialized curriculum and a distinguished master's degree program with direct access to U.S. government leaders.

The Institute's unique courses provide an exclusive professional education and prepare students for success in high-ranking positions within government service, including the CIA, FBI and the U.S. Army.

Business Challenge

The Institute had been using an integrated Datatel system (now Ellucian) to manage their student database as well as their accounting. The software is commonly used by large universities and colleges, but the Institute found it extremely cumbersome to use and very expensive to maintain. The primary challenges were in the areas of financial reporting, accounts payable and the inability to drill down into their data.

"The accounting side of Datatel simply didn't fit our needs and required time-consuming workarounds to do even simple tasks like processing checks and creating invoices," explains Elaine Pinder, the Institute's Chief Financial Officer. "We had no way to drill down into our data or export it into Excel so creating financial statements and reports took hours of manual research and entry."

In April 2013, Elaine began evaluating accounting software packages that would better match the Institute's needs and budget. Feeling a cloud-based Intacct solution would be an ideal fit for their mid-sized nonprofit, she reached out to Intellitec for a demonstration. "I've worked with Intellitec for more than fifteen years and

know firsthand how knowledgeable and responsive their people are. I was confident they could help us find the right solution,” said Elaine.



“We are ecstatic to have streamlined our processes and create more efficiencies so we can work on things that need our attention more than having to spend half an hour keying in a couple of invoices.”

Elaine Pinder
Chief Financial Officer



Technology Solution

Working with the Institute’s finance team, Intellitec assessed their processes and requirements and agreed Sage Intacct nonprofit accounting software would be an excellent solution to streamline their accounting processes while significantly reducing licensing and maintenance costs. Intellitec assisted in the migration of their financial data into Intacct and setup the chart of accounts, General Ledger and several features for optimal efficiency.

Additionally, the Institute implemented an independent student database system and needed to have that information available in Sage Intacct nonprofit accounting software. In conjunction with their student database vendor, Intellitec was able to automate the process of uploading and importing the new

student data into Sage Intacct, taking staff only about 30 seconds per day.

“A cloud-based Intacct solution was absolutely the right decision for us. You don’t need extensive accounting or technical knowledge to use the system. It’s very user-friendly and works great for nonprofits and mid-sized organizations like us without a lot of customizations,” Elaine said.

To correspond with the start of their new fiscal year, Intellitec helped the Institute fully convert to Intacct in August 2013. Staff were personally guided through the transition and trained on the advanced nonprofit accounting software features and tools. Elaine and her team are extremely pleased and report numerous benefits from their

solution. “We are ecstatic to have streamlined our processes and create more efficiencies so we can work on things that need our attention more than having to spend half an hour keying in a couple of invoices. We love Sage Intacct. It’s so much easier to use and it’s in the cloud which has saved valuable time and costs we can now use to directly benefit our students.”

Intellitec Impact

Savings of \$81,000 per Year

The return on investment for the Institute has been “phenomenal” according to the financial team. By choosing a cloud-based Intacct solution, the Institute no longer has to allocate budget for outsourced IT support or to maintain expensive hardware. The result is an annual savings of 62% per year in software and IT costs.

Integrated & Searchable Data

Intacct has given the Institute expanded capabilities to access, search and manage their information. Now, they have all of their information at their fingertips with the ability to drill-down how they need to and import/export into Microsoft Excel which they couldn’t do before. Intellitec worked with their student database vendor to setup an automated way to integrate their daily transactions from their separate student database into Intacct in a matter of seconds.

Simplified Invoicing & Check Processing

Before Intacct, processing checks took multiple steps and it took around 15 minutes just to create one invoice. There was no way to allocate costs to different departments so staff had to manually key in and allocate costs in spreadsheets and then enter them as separate line items on invoices. With Intacct, checks can be issued in a couple of clicks and an invoice takes just a couple of minutes to produce.



“Now, we call Intellitec and talk to someone who takes the time to help us right away. We are always able to get assistance when we need it and have had no downtime whatsoever.”

Elaine Pinder
Chief Financial Officer



THE INSTITUTE
WORLD POLITICS

Expansive Financial Reporting

Coming from very limited reporting capabilities with Datatel, the Institute is thrilled with Intacct’s wide array of built-in report templates. With the ability to export their data and intuitive custom reporting features, creating financial statements and month-end reports is intuitive and fast. In addition, they can confidently report who created, modified and approved every journal entry ensuring compliance with auditing requirements. These new capabilities have been a major benefit providing improved insight and accelerated reconciliation while saving staff hours every month.

Accurate Expense Management & Budgeting

Nonprofit organizations are under a considerable amount of pressure to make the best use of their resources and funds. Utilizing flexible dimensions within Intacct, the Institute has gained control of their chart of accounts and can better manage direct and indirect expenses. Department heads can accurately budget for their department and leaders can effectively allocate funds across the organization.