TALON Tracks

A monthly newsletter tracking Tennessee Tech's progress toward implementation of its new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system.

April 2024

Welcome to Talon Tracks, a new monthly newsletter from the university's Office of Business & Fiscal Affairs and Office of Human Resources!

Earlier this year, Tennessee Tech announced plans to transition to a new cloud-based system known as "Talon" that will replace the Banner system that has been in use for nearly two decades (see President Oldham's video announcement **here**).

This transition, set to take place over the next 12-18 months, will streamline our business and human resources processes, improve security and accessibility, and offer a better end-user experience for university employees.

Where are we now?

Implementation of Talon is well underway. The university's HR and Finance teams are participating in the first of three Conference Room Pilots (CRPs), each representing key stages of the project.

CRP 1 (March/April 2024) is focused on understanding all of the business requirements, technical architecture, and how the application will meet these needs, in addition to

identifying any gaps. This information will be used in designing and configuring the new system that will be further refined and tested in CRP 2 (June/July 2024) and CRP3 (September/October 2024) before the final test, referred to as User Acceptance Testing or UAT (June 2025), which signifies that the application has been tested, validated, and is ready for full implementation.

Why it matters

While not every university employee uses Banner, or may need to use Talon, the system helps facilitate key university processes and operations that matter to all of us - from paying our faculty, staff and vendors, to purchasing items for your offices and classrooms and reserving space for campus events.

Talon will offer a modernized, more user-friendly experience with less third-party applications for university employees to navigate. Employees who may not have utilized certain Banner functionalities may find that they choose to do so under the new system because of its improved usability.

What's next?

For many employees, there is no immediate action necessary on your part. Over the coming weeks and months, the ERP project team will reach out to various stakeholders for your feedback and involvement as testing moves forward.

Talon Testimonial

Each month, we will bring you a short message from a member of our university community with their perspective on the importance of our transition to Talon and how it will benefit our students, faculty and staff. Find this month's message below:

As your CIO, I'm thrilled to announce Talon, our upcoming migration to Oracle Cloud Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP). This isn't just a technological shift, it's a transformative leap that will empower our entire university community. Imagine a future with real-time access to financial data and the ability to make data-driven decisions with unprecedented agility. Talon isn't just about streamlining processes, it's about unlocking a new era of innovation and collaboration for our university. Together, let's embrace this exciting future and write the next chapter of our institution's success story!

Brian Seiler
Chief Information Officer and AVP of Information Technology Services

Stay connected

Learn more about our transition to Talon at **www.tntech.edu/talon/** and reach out to members of our team anytime with questions or feedback at **erptalon@tntech.edu**.

You can also stay apprised of our implementation timeline **here** and find a list of frequently asked questions **here**.