

IT AWARDS

Nomination Form



APPLICANT INFORMATION	
Name of Project, Application, Initiative, etc.	UC Website
School	University of the Cumberlands
Individual Nominating	Donnie Grimes
Award for Nomination (please circle one)	Best New Campus Application Best Student Online Service Most Successful IT Infrastructure Project Most Innovative Use of Technology for Instructional Purposes



NOMINEE DESCRIPTION	In January of 2011, University of the Cumberlands launched a new web design after six months of research, redesign, and user input. UC's new web design boasts graphical improvements and several new features to improve the browsing experience for users. Dynamic content, a larger resolution, and a host of web applications were just a few of the improvements included.
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JUSTIFICATION FOR AWARD	<p>With the ongoing compatibility issues between Adobe Flash and Apple products, the University felt it imperative to use an alternate format for dynamic and animated content. For this purpose, we chose jQuery. jQuery is a cross-browser JavaScript library designed to simplify the client-side scripting of HTML. The most popular of all Javascript libraries, jQuery allows for the quick and easy deployment of javascript functions into a web page. By using the available plug-ins and functions, we feel jQuery has greatly enhanced the user experience on the UC website. UC's main landing page includes a jQuery plug-in by animating 4-8 graphics of upcoming events and important announcements for students and visitors to see. The main drop down menu is also driven by the jQuery language. (http://www.ucumberlands.edu)</p> <p>Relying strongly on PHP web programming, the new site utilizes this server-side language to bring students several new web applications. A few of the most popular web applications incorporated into the new web design are the Student Employment Portal and the Student Insurance Portal.</p> <p>The Student Employment Portal allows all Cumberlands' students to browse, apply, and accept/decline both federal work-study positions and alternately funded job openings offered by the university. Job supervisors can monitor applications and offer employment online, totally eliminating the mass amounts of paperwork that formerly flooded our campus during peak student employment times. The Dean of Student Employment also has an online management portal that monitors and manages all job postings, applications, job offers, job declinations, and statistics. This tool has been vital in managing the student workforce on UC's campus. The student employment portal can be found at http://www.ucumberlands.edu/studentemployment/</p> <p>The Student Insurance Portal is the most recent addition to be rolled out for Cumberlands' new site. Cumberlands requires that all students have insurance coverage that meets a minimum set of requirements.</p>
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<p>The student may either provide proof of third party insurance or enroll in UC's insurance plan. The Student Insurance Portal allows Cumberlands' students to either a) Fill out an insurance waiver or b) Enroll in the university insurance plan. Once a student has done either of the options above, UC's insurance administrators can log in to the Student Insurance Management Portal to manage all waivers and enrollments. The student insurance portal can be found at http://www.ucumberlands.edu/insurance/</p> <p>Overall, Cumberlands' new web design has been a huge success in offering the latest in information, events, and online applications for self service to our students.</p>	
BENEFITS	<p>The benefits of UC's website redesign are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. jQuery based dynamic content and animation to eliminate any flash/apple compatibility issues. 2. Student self service applications with the addition of several web forms and application portals (i.e. Student Employment & Student Insurance) 3. Partnership with CASHNet to provide a PCI/PA-DSS compliant online payment portal for prospective students, current students, and online donations 4. Larger resolution to provide more web content 5. Improved graphical design
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	

Activities relating to the applicant nomination should have occurred during the last 12 months.

You may use additional paper if needed.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

The nomination forms can be submitted electronically to me or via mail to the AIKCU office.

All submissions are due by COB August 15.