

Name the System Announcement

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White



Name the System Selection

>80 entries from **46** unique individuals across Northwestern

140 votes which resulted in **10** finalists

... and without further ado



The System Name Is

Northwestern | CERES
CENTRAL ELECTRONIC
RESEARCH SYSTEM

Community Choice Winner: Nathan

Why Change?



Northwestern's Research Portfolio Continues to Grow

Northwestern has increased research revenue 34% from FY17-21 and is now approaching \$1B. A growth trajectory like that of Northwestern's requires best-in-class research support and infrastructure to scale to meet the continued growth.



Scaling Our Support

To better enable the research community in the context of this growth, we have identified needed changes to the technology.



Our Current System No Longer Met Our Needs

The structure of our current system did not continue to match our growth. Since implementing a new system was needed, we looked for a system that was the best fit for Northwestern's research aspirations.

Expected Benefits

Transparency

Information is easier to find, access, and process in a user-friendly system

- ✓ Improved project structure and system navigation; multiple transactions over the life cycle of an award can be seen on the award in one place, reducing multiple searches and clicks.
- ✓ Detailed and accurate workflow status, including who the step currently is with, can easily be seen and reviewed, giving improved visibility to see and respond to questions about project status.
- ✓ Ability to add ancillary reviews enables the system to track approvals and communication currently done over email; This will make approvals searchable, reportable, and referenceable. An example is cost share approval requests.

Expected Benefits

Efficiency

Some tasks are now automated within the system, reducing manual efforts

- ✓ Award modification will now be integrated and automated from the CERES to NU Financials, decreasing dual entry.

Agility

Able to adapt to new functionality, ways of working, and reporting

- ✓ Ongoing system updates enables the research community to get continued system and process improvements over time.
- ✓ Redesigned Data Mart provides a more flexible, user-friendly reporting environment for proposal, award, and agreement reporting to get consistent, reliable data.

Raffle Winner

Julie Cowan