



## Overview

### INSTITUTION:

CHEYNEY UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

### PROFILE:

Established in 1837, Cheyney University of Pennsylvania is America's oldest historically black institution of higher education. Its main suburban campus, located in Cheyney, together with the Urban Education Site, 25 miles away in Philadelphia, offers 30 Bachelors and 6 Masters Programs to approximately 1,700 students.

### CHALLENGE:

Find a way to manage the process of strategic planning, institutional assessment and continuous improvement; collect and store learning artifacts and satisfy the reporting requirements of the university system.

### SOLUTION:

TracDat provides an enterprise solution for managing the entire assessment process and documents continuous improvement. iWebfolio provides a powerful, creative solution to collect, manage and present self-reflection, educational and personal experiences and evidence of learning and competency.

## Cheyney University of Pennsylvania Adopts Comprehensive Assessment and Continuous Improvement Solution

*"Cheyney University would not have experienced its most successful Middle States visit in its history without TracDat and iWebfolio."*

*-Dr. Kenoye Eke, Provost and Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs*

Established in 1837, Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, America's oldest historically black institution of higher education and one of the 14 institutions in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) has an honored tradition of providing quality education.

TracDat, an enterprise solution for managing the process of strategic planning, institutional assessment and continuous improvement was selected by the PASSHE Office of the Chancellor and provided to each institution to use in reporting essential information for the system's Accountability Program. The Accountability Program is used to determine the distribution of performance-based funding.

Cheyney began implementation of iWebfolio, a leading electronic portfolio management solution in 2006. iWebfolio provides a critical means to acquire and present individual assessment data to compliment Cheyney's earlier adoption of TracDat.

### **TracDat for Strategic Planning and Collection of Data**

Administrators began to use TracDat to collect, document and analyze information on the ongoing efforts to achieve the objectives in the Cheyney strategic plan. TracDat also helped Cheyney align its plan with the PASSHE strategic plan.

The university was also preparing for their decennial accreditation visit from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and TracDat provided a means to demonstrate evidence of its culture of assessment. Prior to implementing TracDat, the university had no formal process in place for assessment and was cited for this weakness by Middle States during their previous accreditation visit. As Cheyney completed their strategic plan in the spring of 2005, the university was faced with the challenge of measuring the institution-wide extent to which the various units were working towards the

## iWEBFOLIO BENEFITS:

- ✓ Students can demonstrate evidence of progressive learning and competency by building and managing a structured repository of artifacts
- ✓ Students share activities and achievements; educational, professional and personal goals; and reflections on the learning experience
- ✓ Students benefit throughout their undergraduate career and can use iWebfolio as a life-long solution
- ✓ Staff and faculty can retrieve student artifacts and other relevant evidence to document achievement of stated learning and performance outcomes
- ✓ Staff and faculty can develop comprehensive templates and guidelines to enable a consistent portfolio structure

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achievement of their objectives. The TracDat solution gave the administration at Cheyney the ability to smoothly adopt a process for planning and management of its assessment and continuous improvement initiative.

TracDat helped Cheyney gather empirical data to demonstrate its process of continuous improvement. The previous process was short on evidence and relied on anecdotal information. The findings documented in TracDat reports were used to make adjustments and set a timetable for the implementation of the university's operational plan. The Middle States visit occurred in the spring of 2006 shortly after full implementation of TracDat. The Cheyney team gave the accreditation team a demonstration of TracDat and the information that had been collected. The representatives from the Commission were highly impressed with the university's evidence and process.

### **iWebfolio Enhances Assessment Efforts**

iWebfolio provides individuals a personalized, flexible, Web-based system to store, manage, share and present valuable evidence of educational and personal accomplishments, while also enabling the institution to meet organizational and accreditation goals.

The university began implementation of iWebfolio in the Communication and Modern Languages department because the department is responsible for the Writing Across the Curriculum initiative. The objective is to store students' writing artifacts in a format that is easily accessible to students and other authorized individuals. iWebfolio was selected because it provides the capacity to serve students throughout their undergraduate careers at the university as well as providing the department a method to track the extent to which different courses and learning activities are tied to the university's recently adopted universal learning outcomes and to integrate with assessment information in TracDat. iWebfolio also helped align the learning outcomes with specific strategic objectives entered in TracDat.

### **The Most Successful Accreditation Visit in its History**

“Cheyney University would not have experienced its most successful Middle States visit in its history without TracDat and iWebfolio. We received no recommendations and suggestions!” said Dr. Kenoye Eke, Provost and Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs. “Technological solutions such as TracDat and iWebfolio are quickly becoming mission critical as higher education redefines the concept of evidence in this age of accountability.”

“Cheyney University has a rich history in Pennsylvania of providing high quality education through its strong academic curriculum,” said Dr. David Raney, Nuventive CEO. “We are very pleased that TracDat and iWebfolio were selected to support Cheyney's pursuit of continuous improvement and institutional and individual excellence.”

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