

**Date of Board Meeting:** May 16, 2023

**Subject:** Migration of Banner to Ellucian Cloud

**Recommendation:** Approve the migration of Banner to Ellucian Cloud.

**Background and Rationale:**

In order to maintain an efficient and effective enterprise resource planning (ERP) system, WCJC must migrate our information system, Banner, from an on-premise environment to a cloud-based solution.

In researching various solutions, WCJC acquired migration scope documents from four vendors, including Strata Information Group, Columbia Advisory Group, Oracle, and Ellucian. A comparison of services offered, associated costs, and advantages/disadvantages are provided as an attachment to this item. Following a comprehensive review of the solutions presented, the recommended course of action is to migrate using Ellucian Cloud services.

The College is a member of the Texas Connection Consortium (TCC), which holds an Interagency Contract for Services for FY2023 with Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi (TAMUCC). TAMUCC holds a Master Agreement with Ellucian which allows TTC members to use that Interagency Contract to satisfy State of Texas bid requirements, as required by Texas Education Code 44.031 Section a, (4).

**Cost and Budgetary Support:** Implementation cost of \$66,000/month for a maximum of 18 months (\$264,000 from CRRSAA; remainder from MIS Fund); annual fees/maintenance to be paid using deferred salaries and licensing fees from approved operating budget

**Strategic Priority Alignment:**

☒ Student Success

☐ Community Impact

☒ Resource Optimization

☒ Institutional Excellence

**Resource Person(s):** Amanda Allen, Ed.D.; Vice President of Strategy, Enrollment Mgmt, and Technology

**Signatures:**

    
Cabinet-Level Supervisor Date

**President's Approval:**

   
President Date

### Migration Rationale

**Current Status:**

- WCJC has migrated some features to Banner 9; however, Banner Student Services are still on Banner 8 which will fail to be supported in the near future.
- WCJC is hosting Banner on-site using physical servers. Ellucian is requiring the migration of all Banner products to cloud-based servers.

**Timeline:**

Date	Failure Point	Ramifications
March 2023	WCJC's current version of Atomic (v9.3) is unsupported; we are working to upgrade to Atomic v9.4.	<p><b>All automated processes</b> for OAR, FAID, BO, Payroll, HR, etc. are reliant on this feature.</p> <p>Continued use of Atomic is <b>not</b> recommended by Ellucian; however, since WCJC Banner is not in the cloud, <b>we cannot use their recommended system, ISE.</b></p>
Sept 2023	WCJC's Continuing Education application, which uses Banner 8, will no longer be supported.	Current process for admission of CE students uses the Banner 8 application feature. CE will need to identify a different method through which to admit students.
March 2024	WCJC's <b>Student Services</b> in Banner 8 will <b>no longer be supported.</b>	<p>No support means that <b>anything that "breaks" will not be able to be fixed.</b> Moreover, anything that Ellucian develops in the future will not be compatible with our system.</p> <p>Patches/updates to our system will not be supported, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual updates for tax records/W2s</li> <li>• Payroll patches</li> <li>• Touchnet integration</li> <li>• Financial aid tables</li> <li>• State reporting tables</li> <li>• Integration of admission data from ApplyTexas</li> </ul>
Dec 2024	Ellucian will require all Banner users to be in a <b>cloud-based environment.</b> We <b>will not be allowed</b> to continue to host Banner through the WCJC Data Center.	<p>All institutions using Banner, or other Ellucian products, <b>will be required to migrate to a cloud-based solution.</b> WCJC will no longer be able to use Banner 8 since it is not able to be hosted in the cloud. We will be required to upgrade to Banner 9 and move to the cloud at this point.</p>

**Key Findings:**

- WCJC must finish upgrade to Banner 9 by **February 2024**.
- Once in Banner 9, WCJC must migrate Banner to the cloud by **November 2024**.

**Challenges:**

- Current staffing levels are not sufficient to upgrade to Banner 9 nor to transition our system to the cloud.
- Knowledge and skill level of IT staff are not at the level to complete the upgrade or migration to the cloud.
- Delaying the upgrade will result in a shorter timeline to complete the tasks. This will require the use of additional contract services at a high level of cost.

**Current Cost for WCJC to Run Banner:**

Expense	AY 2024	AY 2025	AY 2026	AY 2027	AY 2028	Total Five-Year Cost
Personnel/Benefits	\$663,500	\$663,500	\$663,500	\$663,500	\$663,500	\$3,317,500
Systems/Software	\$263,700	\$271,600	\$279,800	\$288,200	\$296,800	\$1,400,100
Hardware*	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$125,000
Contracted Services	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$600,000
<b>Total**</b>	<b>\$1,102,200</b>	<b>\$1,110,100</b>	<b>\$1,068,300</b>	<b>\$1,076,700</b>	<b>\$1,085,300</b>	<b>\$5,442,600</b>

\*Hardware costs do not include maintenance or network support costs, which are highly variable.

\*\*Total costs do not include costs for enhanced security functions which need to be purchased to be compliant with DIR and TX RAMP.

**Total Five-Year Cost           = \$5,442,600**  
**Average Cost Per Year       = \$1,088,500**





**Executive Summary**

	<b>AY 2024</b>	<b>AY 2025</b>	<b>AY 2026</b>	<b>AY 2027</b>	<b>AY 2028</b>	<b>Total Five-Year Cost</b>
<b>Current WCJC</b>	\$1,102,200	\$1,110,100	\$1,068,300	\$1,076,700	\$1,085,300	<b>\$5,442,600</b>
<b>SIG</b>	SIG = \$1,000,000 WCJC = \$1,102,200	SIG = \$0 WCJC = \$1,110,100	SIG = \$0 WCJC = \$1,068,300	SIG = \$0 WCJC = \$1,076,700	SIG = \$0 WCJC = \$1,085,300	<b>\$6,442,600</b>
<b>CAG</b>	CAG = \$815,000 WCJC = \$755,200	CAG = \$855,800 WCJC = \$763,100	CAG = \$898,500 WCJC = \$721,300	CAG = \$943,500 WCJC = \$729,700	CAG = \$990,600 WCJC = \$738,300	<b>\$8,211,000</b>
<b>Oracle</b>	Oracle = \$561,000 WCJC = \$744,800	Oracle = \$371,800 WCJC = \$752,700	Oracle = \$383,000 WCJC = \$710,900	Oracle = \$394,500 WCJC = \$719,300	Oracle = \$406,300 WCJC = \$727,900	<b>\$5,772,200</b>
<b>Ellucian</b>	Ellucian = \$1,456,600 WCJC = \$240,500	Ellucian = \$1,076,200 WCJC = \$248,400	Ellucian = \$645,200 WCJC = \$206,600	Ellucian = \$664,900 WCJC = \$215,000	Ellucian = \$684,500 WCJC = \$223,600	<b>\$5,661,500</b>

	<b>Total Five-Year Cost</b>	<b>Average Annual Cost</b>
<b>Current WCJC</b>	<b>\$5,442,600</b>	<b>\$1,088,500</b>
<b>SIG</b>	<b>\$6,442,600</b>	<b>\$1,288,500</b>
<b>CAG</b>	<b>\$8,211,000</b>	<b>\$1,642,200</b>
<b>Oracle</b>	<b>\$5,772,200</b>	<b>\$1,154,400</b>
<b>Ellucian</b>	<b>\$5,661,500</b>	<b>\$1,132,300</b>

### Solution Detailed Report

#### *Strata Information Group (SIG)*

Strata Information Group does not provide a managed service; therefore, this solution will result in an upgrade to Banner 9 and a transition to the cloud, only. All licenses will continue to be paid in full. Moreover, the system will have to be managed and upgraded in the future by WCJC staff.

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<b>Current WCJC</b>	\$1,102,200	\$1,110,100	\$1,068,300	\$1,076,700	\$1,085,300	<b>\$5,442,600</b>
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	Total Five-Year Cost	Average Annual Cost
<b>Current WCJC</b>	<b>\$5,442,600</b>	<b>\$1,088,500</b>
<b>SIG</b>	<b>\$6,442,600</b>	<b>\$1,288,500</b>

#### Advantages:

- Uses AWS Cloud which is recommended by Ellucian.

#### Disadvantages:

- WCJC will have to invest in additional hardware to provide a sufficient environment for the transition.
- No managed service available. WCJC staff will have to maintain or increase staff levels to continue managing Banner.
- Currently no DBA staff or functional support on staff at WCJC.
- Will need to rehire a VP of Technology to manage the transition, staff, and security needs.
- Copy of existing environment.
- All future upgrades and patching will need to be done by IT staff or using contracted services.

**Columbia Advisory Group (CAG)**

Columbia Advisory Group will provide a fully-managed service; however, this will be one of the first times that the company has embarked on this type of work, making WCJC the “guinea pig”. All licenses will continue to be paid in full by WCJC. Moreover, there will still be systems that have to be managed by WCJC staff, as will any future upgrades to the system.

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<b>Current WCJC</b>	<b>\$5,442,600</b>	<b>\$1,088,500</b>
<b>CAG</b>	<b>\$8,211,000</b>	<b>\$1,642,200</b>

**Advantages:**

- Good working relationship with CAG.
- Fully managed service with no implementation cost.
- Reduction in salary/benefit cost and hardware/maintenance.

**Disadvantages:**

- Must continue to pay for all licenses, including Banner (and any applications), Oracle, and related software.
- Future Ellucian products will be paid for separately (or not purchased).
- Azure Cloud is not recommended by Ellucian.
- Require additional security expenses to ensure full compliance with TX DIR/TX RAMP.
- Future updates/upgrades will require WCJC IT staff or a separate project plan with CAG for an additional cost.
- No previous experience transitioning schools to a SaaS/managed solution.

### Oracle

Oracle will provide a fully-managed service; however, this is not something that Oracle specializes in. All licenses will continue to be paid in full by WCJC. Moreover, there will still be systems that have to be managed by WCJC staff, as will any future upgrades to the system. Finally, the cloud system used (Oracle) is not recommended by Ellucian and will require continued maintenance and upgrades.

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	Total Five-Year Cost	Average Annual Cost
<b>Current WCJC</b>	<b>\$5,442,600</b>	<b>\$1,088,500</b>
<b>Oracle</b>	<b>\$5,772,200</b>	<b>\$1,154,400</b>

#### Advantages:

- Fully managed service.
- Reduction in salary/benefit cost and hardware/maintenance.

#### Disadvantages:

- Must continue to pay for all licenses, including Banner (and any applications), Oracle, and related software.
- Future Ellucian products will be paid for separately (or not purchased).
- Oracle Cloud is not recommended by Ellucian.
- Require additional security expenses to ensure full compliance with TX DIR/TX RAMP.
- Future updates/upgrades will require WCJC IT staff or a separate project plan with external company (SIG/CAG) for an additional cost.



**Ellucian**

Ellucian will provide a fully-managed service and has a proven track record in this area with multiple Texas schools, including San Jac, TAMU, and TTU. Future upgrades to the system will be automatic, with no downtime required for upgrades and patching. Oracle license will be eliminated and all licenses for current or future Ellucian products are included as part of this solution.

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<b>Current WCJC</b>	<b>\$5,442,600</b>	<b>\$1,088,500</b>
<b>Ellucian</b>	<b>\$5,661,500</b>	<b>\$1,132,300</b>

**Advantages:**

- Immediate access to all Ellucian products without an additional licensing fee. This includes current products – Banner and Degree Works – and additional products that WCJC currently cannot afford or does not have the staff to implement/maintain.
- Fully align the WCJC Banner environment with best practice and maintain all future upgrades in real-time. No more playing catch-up!
- Patches will be available without taking the system down.
- Eliminates separate licenses, including Oracle, Atomic, etc.
- Ellucian has a proven track record of providing managed services to Texas schools, including TAMU, TTU, and San Jac.
- Provides full compliance with Texas DIR/TX RAMP cybersecurity requirements.
- Allows for an optimal student experience without “add-ons” such as College Scheduler.
- Includes reporting tools that will provide real-time access to student data.

**Disadvantages:**

- Highest Year 1 & 2 investment by WCJC.