

USC TARA – Total Access for Research Administration

News for USC Faculty and Staff

March 2012

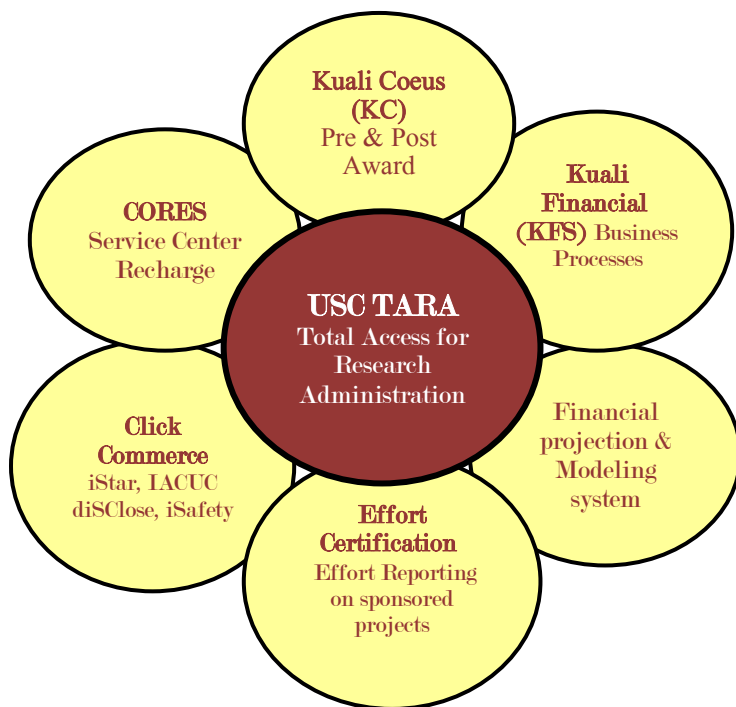
What's New? Our Name!

Thank you to everyone who submitted an entry to our naming contest last month. We received more than 50 entries, all of them extremely clever and ingenious. We truly enjoyed reading them. It was a difficult decision, but the winner is *USC TARA: Total Access to Research Administration*, representing Kualii Coeus plus all of the additional research administration tools described below. Congratulations to **Michelle Tam**, Computer Science Department, Viterbi School of Engineering who came up with the name and received a USC gift basket worth over \$200.



Randy Hall (left) and Christine Lavoie (right) presenting the gift basket to contest winner Michelle Tam (center).

KC Updates - Great news! KC version 3.2 – which includes the Subaward, Negotiations, and Report Tracking modules – has been installed and is being tested. More than fifty testing scripts are being written in order to validate key functionalities. Interface specifications are being written for the integration pieces including IACUC, IRB, Conflict of Interest, etc. The functional team is working with key staff in Sponsored Projects Accounting and the Department of Contracts and Grants to document their processes. We are currently working to verify legacy data for entry into KC.



KFS Updates - The team is working on the KC/KFS integration. USC is the leader in the integration of these systems. Interfaces are being programmed to connect the current financial feeder systems to KFS, including DCG and SPA.

diSClose - This system aims to provide an online environment facilitating the submission of conflicts of interest. Currently diSClose is created using Click Commerce with interfaces to KC, iStar and IACUC. Roll-out phase is planned to begin in June continuing through August.

Financial Projection & Management System – Working groups are being formed to review and create user specific requirements for this system. The group will compare current systems to the requirements creating a working plan for any necessary development.

CORES - Core Ordering & Reporting Enterprise System is being implemented at USC as part of TARA. CORES will provide an integrated billing, financial and scheduling tool for USC's core facilities – providing a single billing statement covering all cores. Vanderbilt's CORES team will visit USC to complete the fit/gap analysis on April 11th and 12th. The morning of April 11th is devoted to a general

overall discussion of the system and a brief demonstration and will include a wide group of people. Contact Christine Lavoie (clavoie@usc.edu) if you would like to attend. The afternoon of April 11th and all day April 12th will be a working group session limited to 5-6 core managers who will be involved in the pilot roll-out.

Who's New to TARA?

Please join us in welcoming our newest TARA project members:

Project Manager:

Candy Poolman brings a wealth of experience in developing and deploying information systems to support the research enterprise. She has led successful research system implementation efforts at UC San Francisco, Northwestern, Columbia and UC Santa Barbara.

Senior Business Analysts:

Winnie Lai brings a strong background in information systems, including experience in supporting departmental data needs through enterprise administrative systems. With Jennifer's relocation, Winnie will be picking up more of the interactions with the user community.

Nick Bowerman began his career in the Office of Research at UC Santa Barbara. He has since led a variety of system implementation and integration efforts in multiple functional areas and industries.

Training Manager:

John Zivi brings more than twelve years of experience to the role, having previously served as Training Director of the University's Professional Development department.

A warm round of applause to...

Jennifer Love who worked closely with the advisory user groups over the last six months. Jennifer showed true team spirit dedicating much of her time to the working groups to understand the processes here at USC. Final documented outcomes from meetings are located on the TARA website <http://research.usc.edu/project-documents/>.

In the Future...

With our new name comes a whole new look and feel to our website, with each component of our system having its own dedicated webpage. Expect to see website updates in the next few weeks!

Quick Links

Select any of the below links to learn more about TARA:

- *TARA Website:* <http://research.usc.edu/usc-research-administration-system/>
- *Requirements Document:* https://research.usc.edu/files/2011/06/RASRequirements_3_7_2011.pdf

Contact Us

Please send TARA questions or feedback to: Christine Lavoie, Director of Research Administration: clavoie@usc.edu

Please send newsletter comments and ideas to: Donna Obeid, Training and Development Specialist: dobeid@usc.edu