

achieve

## Microsoft's Commitment to California

In California, a robust economy and effective education system benefit everyone. That's why Microsoft—in partnership with public and private organizations, community leaders, and business partners—is striving to foster innovation and economic development by improving access to powerful technology. Discover some of the exciting initiatives and investments taking place to help the people of your community achieve their full potential.

resources, routing budget and project proposals for approval, and tracking employment applications will be streamlined through SharePoint Server 2007.

Taking advantage of its integration with other applications, the use of Microsoft Office Groove® 2007 technologies can enable Calit2 research teams to collaborate in real time with researchers anywhere, on any network, with minimal IT support.

Deploying Microsoft Office OneNote® 2007 to collect and manage almost any type of information—structured and unstructured—in one place is a logical way to enhance Calit2's information sharing capabilities. Using OneNote 2007 in an integrated fashion with other 2007 Microsoft Office system applications would enable Calit2 to create a comprehensive searchable record of project information, including meeting and research notes and documentation, which can be accessed easily by authorized users and retained as employees move to new roles.

## SharePoint Eases Tech Woes for Monterey Peninsula College

Monterey Peninsula College may be located on one of the most beautiful stretches of the northern California coastline, but its technology infrastructure was anything but pretty. The 16,000-student community college had a system to manage college Web sites and administrative records that was difficult to maintain and nearly impossible for anyone except the college's IT staff to work on. "Our users needed more functionality and ease of use," says Lavester Boykin, one of the college's network engineers. "The college as a whole needed advanced features that allowed for data integration and workflow, both of which are possible within the Microsoft .Net 2.0 environment."

In 2006 Boykin began to research a new set of technology tools for Monterey Peninsula College. He wanted tools that would be simple for the small IT staff to maintain; that allowed users to create Web sites easily; and that facilitated greater collaboration among students, faculty, and administrators. "Anything that was going to cut down on our tech-support calls and lower administrative overhead was a big plus," says Boykin. "For end users, it boiled down to features and functionality—we wanted something that made it easy to upload documents, was easy to edit, and was easy to learn."

The solution: Build a new IT infrastructure on Microsoft technologies such as Microsoft Windows SharePoint Services, Microsoft Exchange

Server 2007, Microsoft Windows Server® 2003 Enterprise Edition, and more.

The college began to roll out its new solution early in 2007. Now their public-facing Web sites, intranet sites, and administrative records-keeping sites are built using Microsoft products, resulting in much simpler maintenance and greater ease of use for the school's students and faculty.

Typical of the system's users is Kimberly Panis, a Library Instructional Tech in the college's Library Services Department. The department's four full-time and six part-time librarians are typically dedicated to specific research areas, and given the task of managing reference materials, links to Web sites, instructional materials, and more.

Updating the Web sites that contained this information often fell to Panis, due to the poor ease of use of the previous system. "We had one short training session [on SharePoint] where I showed them how to log on and do edits, then they were on their own," says Panis. "It has saved me a tremendous amount of time, and changes to the Web pages get done in a much more timely fashion."

For the school's IT staff, the switch to a Microsoft suite of products has resulted in easier maintenance and simplified data organization. "Our productivity is greatly increased because we can solve most tech problems ourselves, without calling an outside vendor," reports Boykin. "The sites are all auto-provisioned by SharePoint, and backup and recovery is a snap." Boykin adds that the school will save about \$40,000 a year in licensing and external support costs.

Using Windows Server 2003 Active Directory, IT personnel created a system of sites that model the school's department structure. "That way each department has its own Web site, and they are the content owners," says Boykin. "We train a designated person for each site and they can determine what to keep and what to let go as they move to the new site." It's also easier to offer tech-savvy students the ability to create personal Web sites, create or subscribe to blogs and wikis, and review class material online. Instructors, meanwhile, will be able to manage class rosters, assignments, and more using the technology.

For Monterey Peninsula College, Microsoft products and services turned a pain point into an asset for the college and its students.