Research, Competitions & More

*How Primarily Undergraduate Institutions, Masters Colleges and Universities,
and Small Doctoral Universities Use InfoReady in Many Ways…*

*An InfoReady Case Study with Arkansas State University
and Indiana University of Pennsylvania*

infoReady

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An InfoReady Case Study

Can PUI's, M1's and R2's benefit from InfoReady as much as major research universities?

InfoReady has implemented InfoReady on more than150 campuses – including major research universities such as University of Michigan, Stanford, and Georgia Tech. However, non-doctoral Primary Undergraduate Institutions ("PUIs"), Masters Colleges and Universities ("M1's"), and Doctoral/Professional Universities (D/PU) have asked if they too might benefit from InfoReady.

The answer is an unqualified yes, according to Indiana University of Pennsylvania's (IUP) Associate Dean for Research Hilliary Creely. Hilliary describes [InfoReady](#) as "one tool, many uses," and for her and Systems Manager Bethany Jackson, those include using InfoReady for:

- soliciting, reviewing, and approving limited submissions for external funding
- awarding faculty research support
- student research support
- determining presenters at IUP's Annual Research Symposia

And, they've even begun exploring campus use beyond their Research Office.

Putting InfoReady to work beyond the research office has in fact become something of a trend. While research competitions remain a primary function – 85% of InfoReady customers use it for internal funding opportunities and 47% for limited submission competitions – the number and variety of additional institutional applications has surprised even us.

Consider these statistics:

- 37% use InfoReady for fellowships and scholarships
- 33% use it for recognition awards and nominations
- 29% use it for approval routing
- 18% use it for conferences, workshops, and travel
- 14% use it for poster competitions
- 4% (and growing rapidly) use it for student success, engagement, and advising
- 3% use it for course release, reassigned time, and no-cost extensions
- 3% use it for tech transfer and translational research
- 9% use it for other purposes, such as campus UAT (drone) registration and tracking

Why is InfoReady being adapted and utilized for purposes beyond research?

InfoReady has inherent strengths and capabilities useful for both competitive workflows and general form collection processes that need a review/approval workflow component. IUP's Hilliary Creely chose market-leading InfoReady for its singular ability to intuitively automate labor- and time-intensive manual processes in competitions, reviews, and approvals.

So, it's not surprising that once InfoReady was implemented, additional uses for the platform were discovered. These include being an invaluable tool in:

- Soliciting short pre-applications prior to selection for full submission
- Awarding internal grants and fellowships, for professional development
- Awards for publication expenses and travel grants.

Behind InfoReady's functionality is an entire menu of benefits including being a Cloud-based solution accessible from anywhere, speedy implementation, ease of use for users with any experience level, clear reporting, no required ongoing IT support by the institution, and excellent customer support from InfoReady.

That functionality led IUP to adopt InfoReady as the tool used to help select student candidates for their Scholars Forum (the annual poster symposium) and manage their version of the innovative "Three-Minute Thesis" program, an event in which selected grad students present their research to a group of judges (faculty, administrators, campus leaders) and a wider audience on a single PowerPoint slide within that brief time limit.

For IUP, the bottom line is that InfoReady's capabilities save time, effort, reduce errors, and enhance faculty and student engagement, while being able to manage multiple processes with a single centralized tool. The benefits are every bit as applicable to PUIs as they are to large research universities.

Powering Student Research at Arkansas State

Encouraging and promoting ongoing student research and creativity, and raising the game in both arenas, was a primary objective for Arkansas State University, an former M1 institution which has recently graduated to being an R2. Fulfilling its student research objective, Emily Devereaux, Executive Director of Research and Technology Transfer, transformed an annual symposium and poster competition for undergrads into a year-long effort, now known as Create@State, for undergrad and graduate students, both traditional and online.

Starting with formal assessments and focus group research, Emily and her colleagues ultimately

developed a student grant award competition based on carrying out research and creative activity throughout the year. It culminates in an annual year-end symposium when all disciplines present their work – whether poster, oral, or performance based. The learning experiences are further enhanced for students who are encouraged to travel to national competitions.

That initial success stimulated college deans at Arkansas State to match funded awards within their own departments, and to also make travel grants available. Emily Devereaux and the Research & Tech Transfer team created a solid foundation with the Create@State program for facilitating student research and creative activities. The adoption of InfoReady allowed Arkansas State to take things to the next level by automating processes and increasing the team's capacity to meet the growing demands of their programs. The functionality in InfoReady helps institutions with everything from soliciting applications to reporting outcomes, assessment, student self-assessment, and even communication.

What's perhaps most intriguing about InfoReady is that even beyond research-based uses, the product is only limited by the needs and imagination of its users.

Indiana University of Pennsylvania – One Tool, Many Uses

For example, IUP found InfoReady valuable in its teaching excellence boot camp, which prepares future faculty to teach at the master's and doctoral levels … in tracking and allocating budgets for equipment maintenance … in determining graduate student eligibility … and in compliance committee work.

For Indiana University of Pennsylvania, the "one tool, many uses" phrase is further elaborated on by Associate Dean Creely, who remarked, "We try to use InfoReady any time we need to collect information, signatures, approvals, keep records, and process reports."

With such a broad array of applications, institutions including PUIs, M1s and R2s are having success in utilizing InfoReady for:

- Poster competitions
- Approval routing
- Tech transfer
- Student engagement and success
- Academic advising
- Fellowships and scholarships
- Course release
- Recognition awards
- Conferences and workshop

- Travel requests
- and more!

So notwithstanding the fact that research currently dominates InfoReady's usage stats – with internal funding and limited submissions leading the way – we're beginning to see interest and adoption in Provost Offices, Graduate Schools, Student Affairs, Alumni Relations, Advancement, Admissions, Communications and Marketing, Summer Programs (including youth camps), and Community Engagement.

Doing more with less is a requirement for all colleges and universities today. This is truest for PUIs and M1s, and that objective has been an overarching reason for InfoReady's development.

If you'd like to learn more about InfoReady and how it might benefit your institution across a spectrum of offices and programs, please contact Amanda Xydis at 517-285-8751 or axydis@inforeadycorp.com.

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