



Monthly Report for June 2015

Submitted July 7, 2015

Staffing

New Employee

Please welcome Bosede Fatukasi, the new database administrator for the MLDS Center. Bosede has several Oracle certifications and she is currently working towards a cyber security certification. Bosede most recently worked as a database administrator for a private company where she enhanced the performance of the company's Oracle environment by tuning the database, troubleshooting issues, and ensuring that downtime was minimized. She also successfully established database security strategies by creating users and granting them necessary privileges, ensuring the latest updates were installed, and monitoring access and use of the database.

Vacancies

The Center is still actively recruiting for two more positions: Network Administrator and ETL Developer. The ETL Developer interviews are complete and the interview team is working on selecting a candidate. The network administrator interviews are taking place this week.

Meetings

2015 Cross Research Alliances Meeting

Ross Goldstein and Laia Tiderman attended the *2015 Cross Research Alliances Meeting* hosted by the REL (Regional Educational Laboratories) Mid-Atlantic. The conference covered a broad range of topics and included a forum for managers of state longitudinal data systems. Ross gave a presentation on the MLDS Data Reporting Standards.

2015 NCES STATS-DC Data Conference

Several staff members will attend the annual *STATS-DC Data Conference* hosted by the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). The conference offers discussions on technical and policy issues related to the collection, maintenance, and use of education data for education researchers, policymakers, and data system managers from all levels of government.

System Development

All of the Oracle database instances (MDM and ODS), OBIEE, OWB, Webcenter have been migrated and tested in the new environment. Some of the new firewalls rules have been tested. MLDS Center website is now in compliance with DoIT requirements and is in the State domain - "mldscenter.maryland.gov". The Center is building an Intranet site for staff.

The Center has finalized the purchase of Oracle ODI and EDQ products. The solicitations for Firewall and Switches as well as VNX Upgrade (Storage upgrade from 5500 to 5700) had to be reissued due to technical errors beyond the Center's control. It is not yet clear whether these purchases can go forward using FY15 funds.

Staff has completed installation of the Master File Transfer (MFT) system and relocated files and folders from DPSCS to MSDE. Staff upgraded the MFT version to include PGP encryption for the files. Staff is in the process of migrating users and setting up configuration for secure file transfer.

With the help of IT support from the University of Maryland, Baltimore, staff has completed SAS (statistical analysis software) server and client installation. Staff is now setting up a Virtual Machine configuration and will be testing VPN access for researchers.

The Oracle software that was required to be installed under the Universal License Agreement (ULA) has been completed. Oracle has begun the ULA Certification Process. This is the lengthy process of documenting all Oracle software installed on all servers with all CPUs and Cores. The Center will be working with MSDE Office of Information Technology since this certification is for all RTTT projects.

Data Management

High School Graduates (HGS) data from MHEC has been loaded. Staff will be working with data stewards to resolve rejected records. K-12 Enrollment and Attendance data was received from MSDE and loaded. Staff is in the process of loading K-12 Assessment data (MSA, ACT, PSAT, HSAA, IB, AP) from MSDE. Staff also loaded NEDP and Wage data from DLLR. To date, it is estimated that 90% of the data received from the partner agencies have been loaded.

Oracle Warehouse Builder (OWB), which is the data loading tool the Center has been using has been discontinued by Oracle. The new data loading tool is Oracle Data Integrator will be installed and the data loading processes will be migrated to that system, which will require significant testing.

Research

The Research Team is continuing its work on several reports, including a report on STEM education, remedial education, and college enrollment.

The Research Team also completed its proposal for a project to be included in MSDE's application for the 2015 State Longitudinal Data System grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences (IES).