



ForeFront Education

PRIVATE
SECTOR
SOLUTIONS

ForeFront Education needed to partner with a top-notch education company—a company with the experience, the people, and the power to help them successfully achieve their online goals.

Berks Technical College. Schuylkill Institute of Business and Technology. Florida Technical College, Jacksonville, Auburndale, DeLand, and Orlando campuses. The New School of Architecture and Design. Platt College. Illinois School of Health Careers. ForeFront is a fast growing corporation of for-profit schools each having its own particular focus ranging from technology to health care.

ForeFront Education needed to create an online presence. Specifically, it wanted to offer its current students general education courses via the Web. Complicating the challenge was the fact that each of the six ForeFront brands taught their own flavor of general education with virtually no commonality among the classes. Basic content, assessment materials, even the schedules of courses varied greatly.

In assessing their needs looking into the future, ForeFront administration was clear: There would be no online general education program if the courses could not be standardized. "Standardizing the general education courses was a business imperative for ForeFront," says Andrea Iorio, national account director for Pearson Learning Solutions. "By enabling general education classes to go online, students would have more options and retention could be solidified. Online courses would also make available valuable classroom space for program-specific courses. Plus, online courses are a great recruitment tool in that they enable students who do not live near campus to complete their general education requirements online." They simply had to get six different colleges across nine different campuses to agree on the curriculum and design for fourteen courses.

Bill Klettke, president of ForeFront Education, and Curt Harris, vice president of regulatory compliance, were committed to making the change. They scheduled a two-day curriculum summit in Chicago to be attended by the directors of each school. And after researching other firms in the industry, took the next step: They asked Pearson Learning Solutions to join them in

Chicago. Only Pearson offers the kind of online experience and technical capability required for such a challenge, including a wealth of resources and talent in building curriculum and the ability to supply all the materials, both existing and customized.

Iorio and a team from Pearson helped orchestrate the two-day curriculum summit. Step by step and in detail, they explained the exact process necessary to standardize ForeFront's 14 curricula into one. They brought together a proven team of content experts, instructional designers, and support personnel. And were able to build an online curriculum that was platform agnostic, thereby enabling ForeFront to freely select any learning management system provider they liked.

By the end of the two-day summit, ForeFront leadership had agreed-to objectives and basic core layouts for fifteen general education courses, each tailored to ForeFront Education—an unprecedented accomplishment. Pearson immediately began the process of writing, developing, and selecting textbooks, and shortly thereafter conducted remote training for ForeFront key faculty and decision-makers via WebEx to acquaint them with the school's new technology and methodology.

The ForeFront success didn't end there. Today, Pearson Learning Solutions is a preferred provider for ForeFront Education assisting them in a variety of areas including technology, curriculum, and textbooks. In addition, Pearson works with the individual campuses in the ForeFront group creating new programs and redeveloping existing ones.