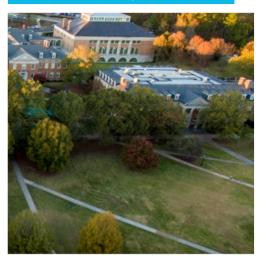








# alitix





# DEPLOYING CONNECTED PLANNING SOLUTIONS AT SAMFORD UNIVERSITY

# The Institution

Samford University, founded in 1841, is a private university located in Birmingham, Alabama. They are the 87<sup>th</sup> oldest institution of higher learning in the United States so successful change is a necessity to honor tradition but stay relevant in these modern times. Samford U was recently ranked #1 in the nation for student engagement by the Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education.

In fact, Beck Taylor, Samford's 19<sup>th</sup> president, summarized his focus in joining the institution with two words. Continuity and Change. The president reminds the institution to protect their standing as a crown jewel in Christian Higher Education and hold true to their timeless values. And, to embrace change to "<u>continuously</u> <u>reinvent the university</u>" to fully prepare students for an ever-changing world. That vision perfectly aligns with the University's <u>Strategy and Planning</u> group, charged with overseeing the creation of university strategy, defining and developing metrics, feedback and reporting, and anticipating the Samford of the future.

# The Challenges

For accuracy, a broader set of people need secure and focused access to, and accountability for, the budget. Samford had an existing data analysis tool, but it was not considered user-friendly or easy for casual users to leverage. In addition, Samford utilizes an incremental budgeting methodology but has a growing need to identify budget targets for their units.

# The Solution

The Budget Development and Budget Management and Analysis models offers the following:

- Allows real time tracking of budgets under • development with detailed review opportunities.
- Salary and staff planning at the detailed level with roll ups available.
- Vacancy planning completed by budget managers
- A strong process around managing positions and salary budgets
- A reconciliation model to summarize budgets so that adjustments can be made
- A Fund Summary with activity across all funds.
- Visibility across the Banner system with the items that make up the University's Chart of Accounts (known as FOAPAL in Banner)

### The Results

The Budget Management and Analysis tool designed by Allitix and based on the Anaplan solution provided the accuracy, transparency, and secure access that the university needed. As a result of the solution deployed on campus, they saw these benefits:

- For the first time, budget managers can track staff and faculty along with corresponding budgets.
- Budget managers now have an easy-to-use tool and are empowered to manage their budgets including their YTD spend.
- Interactive reports are readily available to determine if budget managers are within budget guidelines.

#### The Future

With the success of this model, Samford University is working toward deploying the following additional plans:

- **Financial Impact Scenarios Modeling**
- **Enrollment and Student Credit Hour Tracking**
- **Endowment Management**

"Our University leadership expects current and reliable data for decision making and financial review. The ability to quickly access this data and communicate with leadership is of incredible value."

> Matt DeFore **Director of Budget and Financial Planning**



Location: Birmingham, Alabama Type: 4-year Private Total Enrollment: 5,729 Undergraduate Enrollment: 3,576 Accreditation: SACSCOC Financial Systems: Ellucian Banner



🙆 Goals

A budget development tool that included salary planning functionality and integrates with Ellucian Banner.

Solutions Deployed

**Budget Development Budget Management and Analysis** 

Learn more about Samford **University and other Higher Education institutions on our** website.

#### https://allitix.com/highered

Contact: highered@allitix.com

