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Jan. 21, 2026

Empowering UF Newsletter, January 2026

The project team leapt into the new year, launching the final sprint of the Architect and Configure phase. This phase will culminate on Feb. 27 with the completion of our final tenant build, setting the stage to move into the Test phase beginning March 2. Please view the [project timeline](#).

Architect & Configure phase goals: Design and unit testing

The team is now working to solidify UF's Workday platform design. In December's Customer Confirmation Sessions, core office, college and unit HR and finance representatives reviewed live demos and discussed Workday configuration. The project team has checked and confirmed more than 2,000 user stories to date. These are major milestones on our path to Workday!

Project updates

Security Role Mapping continues

Security Role Mapping is underway to identify and map roles that will grant faculty and staff the right access and permissions in the new system. The submission deadline is Feb. 13. Thank you to the [participants](#) contributing to this process.

FDM Cost Center Mapping begins

The Foundation Data Model (FDM) mapping process kicked off earlier this month to translate current-state PeopleSoft chart of accounts values into future-state Workday FDM dimensions. Unit financial leaders are

now engaged in the first phase through Feb. 27, focusing on the initial translation of PeopleSoft Departments to Workday Cost Centers. [Participants](#) are engaging in “pod” meetings with peer schools and units, attending FDM office hours for Q&A opportunities and collaborating with the project team to iteratively submit draft Excel mapping files for review. In March, phase two will kick off and run through the calendar year, during which time colleges and units will map additional Workday FDM dimensions.

Addressing secondary systems

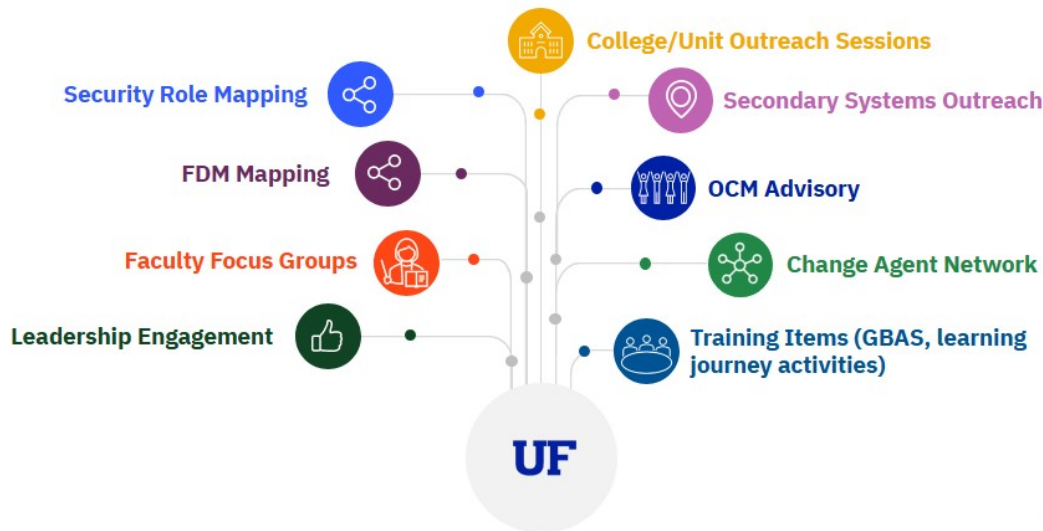
Collaboration continues between representatives from our colleges, departments and the Empowering UF team to determine which secondary software systems will continue alongside Workday following implementation. Discovery sessions continue in January to explore specific business processes and use cases to learn what Workday will accommodate. College and department representatives will then recertify their secondary systems via DocuSign. The recertification process will occur annually before Workday go-live in July 2027. Starting in late January, Secondary Systems Monthly Forums will help ensure those affected understand how to make their secondary systems function adjacent to Workday.

Early learning available via our website

The Empowering UF [Education & Resources](#) page now houses introductory materials, including an overview of Workday’s core concepts, which include foundational elements like the [Foundation Data Model](#) (FDM), [Organizations](#) and [Cost Centers](#). In addition, you’ll find pages devoted to a variety of HR, payroll, finance and research business processes in the new system — including demos, key facts and new terminology.

Keeping our community engaged and informed

As the Empowering UF project builds momentum, outreach efforts continue, including expanded working and advisory groups that engage more stakeholders. These efforts ensure we consider all insights about our diverse colleges and units.



Change Agent Network

Our 100-plus partners across colleges and units met on Jan. 13 for a quarterly update that featured a panel discussion with IFAS staff who shared some best practices for talking about Empowering UF with their colleagues as well as breakout discussions to inspire ideas to support staff awareness and understanding. This active, committed group will continue to serve as liaisons and champions, helping to share updates and early learning resources while also communicating their college's unique needs and concerns back to the project.

Spring outreach sessions

In March, Empowering UF project team leaders will present to faculty and staff at in-person and virtual meetings throughout the university. College and unit Change Agents are helping schedule these opportunities for the team to share updates about the project's vision, scope, goals and progress. Visit the [Outreach](#) page to learn more about these efforts. Resource recap

- [Find your Change Agent](#)
- [Outreach](#) activities, including GBAS workshop and other presentation recordings
- [Security Role Mapping Teams](#)
- [FDM Cost Center Mapping Teams](#)
- [In Their Words](#) stakeholder testimonials (see below)
- [Education & Resources](#)
- [FAQs](#)

Voices: In their Words

Read [what stakeholders are saying](#) about their role helping colleagues across the university manage change and look forward to the benefits of Workday.

"My advice is to take advantage of the panoply of resources that Empowering UF has made available to all employees. I will share the advice I received from a more experienced colleague long ago: 'Change is like the ocean. You can either let the waves crash over you and knock you down, or you can prepare and surf it smoothly into shore.' Be flexible, keep in good humor, and enjoy the opportunity to learn new skills."

— Max Williams, Director of Research Administration, College of Journalism & Communications

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"From what I've heard and seen about Workday, there are so many benefits. A lot of our current manual processes and touchpoints seem to be streamlined with Workday and will make so many things easier and quicker."

— Jenna Glendinning, Assistant Director of HR Strategy, HR, College of Medicine

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Stay in touch

Please feel free to offer feedback about our efforts — we'd love to hear from you. Use the [contact us form](#) to share questions or ideas. You can also encourage colleagues to visit the [Empowering UF website](#) and [subscribe](#) to this newsletter. Thank you!

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