VPBA Kathryn Funk-Baxter has awarded the Rowdy Exchange Project Team the 4th quarter Celebrating Excellence Award.

Rowdy Exchange is UTSA’s new e-procurement system, which launched in July. The Rowdy Exchange Project Team recently received the BRAVO Award from Financial Affairs for developing this system, which makes online purchasing for the university faster and easier. The Celebrating Excellence Committee, which recommended the nomination, recognized the Rowdy Exchange team for representing several departments across Business Affairs.

A few examples of how the Rowdy Exchange team lived up to the Business Affairs Guiding Principles include:

**CREATE:** The Rowdy Exchange Project Team managed this critical project to configure and implement UTSA’s e-procurement platform, offering one e-stop shopping for all goods and services and delivering excellent customer service. The team members worked to develop positive changes to the university by simplifying the purchasing experience via an online "shopping cart." The result is lower prices and better negotiation terms for pricing and services.

The team negotiated a Suppliers Showcase, which standardizes purchases of items, manufacturers, models and available equipment maintenance. Rowdy Exchange now provides several options for shopping and simplifies receiving. The team created templates for a faster buying process as well as an easy search feature that maintains the department’s buying history.

Rowdy Exchange Project Team

Rene Paniagua  
Senior PeopleSoft FMS Application Service Manager of Business Information Systems (BIS)

Dr. John Clifford  
Director of Purchasing & Distribution Services (PDS)

Lane Brinson  
Assistant Director of Purchasing (PDS)

Julie Gohlke  
Procurement Specialist III (PDS)

Elizabeth Raymond  
E-Procurement Specialist (PDS)

Bruce Williams  
HUB Program Manager (PDS)

Paul Duke  
Senior Procurement Specialist (PDS)

Frank Salinas  
Manager of Distribution Services (PDS)

Patty Burrier  
Procurement Specialist II (PDS)

Sandra Calderon  
Procurement Specialist II (PDS)

Diana Macias Ollervidez  
Assistant Controller (UC/FA)

Diane Gomez  
Communications Manager (FA)

Melissa May  
Director of Communications (VPBA Office)

Araceli Pacheco  
Information Technician Associate II (BIS)

Dennis Layman  
Business Analyst II (BIS)

Paul Sanguinetti  
PeopleSoft Tech. Analyst & Reporting Admin. (BIS)

Richard Wollney Jr.  
Contracts Manager (BCO)
PARTNER: The Rowdy Exchange team partnered with many departments across the university. Putting their heads together, team members introduced new ideas and concepts over the nearly one-year implementation process. Early in the process, they engaged user groups, who provided critical feedback prior to the system implementation. They also tested the system extensively with users. This led to the delivery of an easier, more user-friendly system that is responsive to customer needs. The result was more products and a greatly improved overall customer experience. This level of collaboration was essential, since this project affects everyone involved in the buying process at the university.

Executive and advisory committees were carefully selected and included representatives from departments with large purchasing volumes, such as Research, Facilities and Student Affairs as well as niche purchasing areas, such as the Art Department. The user groups proved valuable, as information gleaned from these meetings ensured that Rowdy Exchange implementation incorporated a range of employees’ perspectives. Involving user groups early in the process, and valuing the input of people throughout the university, allowed the project team to respond and adapt to user needs that emerged along the way.

RESPECT: Team members were respectful to one another and responsive within the team, all while handling their daily responsibilities. Their respect for, and careful attention to, the opinions of their campus constituents was evident throughout the planning process. Ultimately, it was their attitudes that were the key to their success and to the acceptance of the university-wide implementation.

DO THE RIGHT THING: By understanding their customers’ needs and designing a system around them, the Rowdy Exchange Project Team is a prime example of how we can all live the Business Affairs Guiding Principles.

Congratulations and thanks to the Rowdy Exchange Project Team for living the Business Affairs Guiding Principles.