infoReady

CASE STUDY SNAPSHOT

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, DC

INFOREADY FEATURE FOCUS
Progress Reports

INFOREADY CHAMPION
Shari Thompson
Research Enhancement Analyst

DEPARTMENT
Office of Vice Provost for Research

LOCATION
Washington, DC

FACULTY
6,000 faculty and staff

STUDENTS
26,000 undergraduate and graduate students

WEBSITE
gwu.edu

Do intramural funding programs and projects really pay off?

OVERVIEW Shari Thompson discovered a resounding "yes" to answer this question using InfoReady's Progress Reports.

CHALLENGE "When we do external grants and receive awards, the ROI is fairly easy to calculate. But with intramural competitions, do we really know if we get an investment back from what we award out – not just on the research side, but the scholarly side as well?"

SOLUTION One of the great advantages of InfoReady is its built-in Progress Report function, which I viewed as virtually perfect for GWU's needs. If, for example, you're creating a new competition, progress reports can be accessed under the Create tile. Simply scroll down the menu and you'll find progress reports on the left, including a default report already configured. If customization is desired, it's simply a matter of editing text boxes, fields, and drafting the specific questions to which you need answers.

This kind of intelligence is easy for faculty to provide because they typically won't need to refer to their records or dig into their files; it's extremely helpful to senior leadership for understanding the true value of grants and measuring inputs against outcomes; and it's important for research administrators like me who want to track data even as faculty may change interests, move to another institution, or retire.

With Progress Reports pre-loaded in InfoReady, faculty have generally been very compliant in completing and uploading their progress updates, and they understand that their compliance is weighed in receiving future awards.

RESULTS This kind of research intelligence has proven to be of great strategic value to the institution and has truly elevated our research profile. Essentially, InfoReady's Progress Reports are a win-win-win for the faculty themselves, those of us in research administration, and institutional leadership.

"Best of all, Progress Report functionality is a basic feature of InfoReady and ready to be customized for virtually any kind of institution and any kind of research or scholarly project."