



AmpliFund Centralizes Louisiana Tech University's Grant Processes

Introduction

Louisiana Tech University partnered with [StreamLink Software](#), a software as a service (SaaS) grant management technology provider, to improve its grant management processes.

The university had been managing each grant in a separate spreadsheet. As a result, only one person could access the files at a time, and information requests on grant status and activity had to be funneled through the organization's accountant.

A web-based grants management system was long overdue, and [AmpliFund grant software](#) provided the modern, centralized solution the university desired.

The Move Beyond Spreadsheets

With about \$25 million in research expenditures and more than 200 active grants at any given time, separate spreadsheets for each award made it difficult to track expenditures, manage grant activity, oversee projects across campus and guide organizational decision-making.

“We had an accountant in our office who had a spreadsheet for each grant,” said Courtney Jarrell, CPA, research contracts administrator for the Office of Sponsored Projects at Louisiana Tech University. “As salaries or supplies came through for approval, she would log them in the spreadsheets. There were limitations to doing it this way though. Only one person could see that information at a time, and if anyone, like the principal investigator or an administrative person, needed that information, they had to contact the accountant every time. And then it’s just a screenshot of what’s going on right then.”

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The university needed a transparent and accessible solution that centralized expenditure and project information across offices, and allowed real-time reporting. This way, all stakeholders—the Office of Sponsored Projects, deans and department heads—were on the same page.

The AmpliFund Advantage

After conducting multiple software demos, Louisiana Tech University selected AmpliFund as its grant management solution. AmpliFund was the only product that provided the level of detail they needed to make decisions based on expenditures.

“All the other software that we looked at just wanted to tell you big-picture—the total award, the total expenditures and the total remaining,” said Jarrell. “They didn’t give that breakdown of the different budget line items, so that we could see in one place not just what’s available in an entire grant, but what’s available in supplies. That’s really why we chose AmpliFund.”

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With grant and/or supply expenditures listed individually, the university could determine if funding was available, and approve or deny spending accordingly. This functionality was needed since the university’s financial system only showed cash expenditures paid, not those approved, making it look like money was available that really wasn’t.

The Grant Software Rollout

In 2016, the Office of Sponsored Projects moved all active grants into AmpliFund and on-boarded its five employees into the system.

With grant and budget information uploaded, and an initial team of supporters driving the rollout forward, it then sought to implement AmpliFund university-wide. The team leads two training sessions for faculty, deans, department heads and administrative assistants to acclimate them to the software every quarter.

To date, the university has 80 users benefitting from AmpliFund access. The Office of Sponsored Projects uses AmpliFund to centralize award data, manage expenditures and progress, and keep university stakeholders informed on the status of individual grants.

Faculty, deans, department heads and administrative assistants rely on the real-time data housed in AmpliFund to drive program decision-making. "They can see all the grants they are responsible for," said Jarrell. "For example, the dean of engineering can see all the grants that are applicable to engineering, and sort by principal investigator or funding agency. That gives them information that they did not previously have."

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A Tool Used Daily

Louisiana Tech University is currently using AmpliFund for 230 active grants and almost 300 pending grants. It has also closed out about 150 grants in the system.

With easier access to view grant activity and expenses, Jarrell hopes to reduce the amount of unspent funds. "It is much easier to track when grants are ending in a centralized software like AmpliFund than within hundreds of individual spreadsheets," said Jarrell.

The university also receives reports in a timely manner because of the reporting features in AmpliFund. "We use the grant budget variance really frequently—probably daily in our office," said Jarrell. This report helps the university see the amount of funds still available at any given time, and whether it is trending on track with grant close dates.

Jarrell has also been pleased with the AmpliFund customer success team, and its ability to customize the software for maximum value. "From a customer service perspective, you guys have been very responsive," said Jarrell. "Everything gets addressed really quickly."

Saved time, improved accessibility to data and better reporting positions AmpliFund as a solution with substantial ROI.

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How can AmpliFund benefit your university's grant management? [Schedule an AmpliFund demo](#) to learn how to improve your processes.

ABOUT AMPLIFUND

[AmpliFund](#) was built to simplify the growing complexities of grant management. It creates a comprehensive, yet intuitive, hub where grant managers can efficiently oversee the entire grant lifecycle. As a result, nonprofit organizations and public entities can drive additional revenue and capacity through more streamlined processes, and easily ensure regulatory compliance with advanced reporting functionality.

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