

Time + Effort matters

News about Nova Southeastern University's
Effort Certification Reporting Technology (ECRT)

Nova Southeastern University
Summer 2008



Say Goodbye to Paper Timesheets

To address this issue, it has been determined that the Effort Certification Reporting Technology (ECRT) designed by Huron Consulting Group will provide the most reliable and effective time and effort reporting solution for NSU.



On August 25, 2008, the university will be implementing this new effort reporting system.

ECRT is a Web-based certification and reporting system. It enables the necessary documentation and processing of NSU faculty and staff members' "time and effort" dedicated to projects sponsored by grants and contracts. This system was designed to ensure a more efficient, accurate, and compliant effort reporting process at this university. ECRT is a critical component to better manage effort reporting, ensure that critical compliance requirements are met, and reduce administrative workload in tracking and monitoring faculty and staff members' "time and effort."

Get Trained for the ECRT System

While NSU will launch the ECRT system on August 25, 2008, training will be held after this date and will continue as frequently as necessary. John Scigliano, Jr., NSU's university-wide trainer, will be available regarding the technology portion of the training for departmental administrators, faculty members, and other certifiers. Burt Bolton, central effort administrator, will assist in the more detailed

NSU Sponsored Funding Exceeds \$45 Million

Our faculty and staff members' scholarly research, community service, and completion of teaching/training programs of distinction promote the university's mission while advancing knowledge and progress in diverse areas of study. Our students are inspired and engaged by the lessons garnered from these field-based experiences and discoveries. Essential to this circle of knowledge are also the administrators and staff members who process grants and contracts, making public and private funding possible for NSU. Driven by a commitment to promote such projects and improve our research administration, NSU is now implementing a new Web-based system to facilitate the time and effort reporting process.

Federal regulation, OMB Circular A-21 [section J.10], requires that all universities receiving federal funds for sponsored projects maintain an accurate system to track and report the apportionment of any employee's salaries, wages, and fringe benefits that are charged to, or cost shared, on sponsored grants and contracts. Time and effort certification is one of the most contentious areas of research administration and continues to be the focus of federal audit findings throughout the country that have resulted in multi-million dollar fines at several universities. Given the national attention these audit findings have generated, time and effort reporting has become a "high risk" issue deserving of our considerable attention and action at NSU.



content aspects of the system and conduct a brief primer called "Time and Effort Reporting 101." Bolton is responsible for the overall administration of the ECRT system at NSU, as well as for the monitoring of, and compliance with, the effort reporting process.

While much of the training will take place in computer labs, Bolton's approach will be hands-on throughout this training process. He will visit various NSU sites to provide training for the colleges, centers, and departments that are more research-intensive—using informal contacts with researchers as training opportunities, assisting researchers with certification, and encouraging departmental administrators to hold office hours during the certification period to assist researchers with certification.

For functional purposes, the ECRT will be housed in the Office of Grants and Contracts (OGC), which will work in collaboration with technical team members in the Office of Information Technologies and Digital Media, as well as other key units within the university.

Your Time and Effort Matter at NSU

As NSU makes this transition to the ECRT system, your participation is not only greatly appreciated, it is also necessary for its success. This system's enhanced level of compliance and ease of use is undeniably a positive move for this university's research initiatives and standing among other institutions of higher education.



For more information on NSU's transition to the ECRT system, contact Burt Bolton at (954) 262-5378 or ecrt@nsu.nova.edu.