

YPTC HIGHER EDUCATION SPECIALIZATION

CASE STUDIES: HOW YPTC SUPPORTS HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS



AT YPTC, we help nonprofit and higher education leaders strengthen the finance functions they rely on for planning, reporting, compliance, and board oversight. Colleges and universities face added pressure from tuition dependence, discounting, enrollment shifts, fund accounting, and external reporting requirements. Through our customized and flexible financial management services, YPTC's higher education specialists provide expert, hands-on support. We help accounting teams improve processes, strengthen financial reporting, and give leadership better information for decisions about cash flow, budgets, and long-term stability.

CASE STUDY: CASH FLOW FORECASTING FOR A LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE

THE CLIENT

A SMALL, LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE going through major finance department turnover. In a short period of time, two controllers and two vice presidents had departed, which created gaps in institutional knowledge and made financial oversight harder to maintain. The college also lacked a dependable cash flow forecasting process, leaving leadership with a limited basis for decisions about borrowing, spending, and long-term financial planning.

THE OPPORTUNITY

- **EQUIPPING** college leadership with a clear view of available cash over time to evaluate borrowing, endowment draws, and cost reductions that may be needed during a period of financial uncertainty.
- **MAPPING** revenues and expenses throughout the academic year, including tuition payments, financial aid drawdowns, bond payments, and capital projects, so leadership could plan for cash flow changes instead of reacting to them.

OUR APPROACH

- **ANALYZED** historical cash flow data within the college's financial systems, using prior reports to understand when cash was received and spent across the academic year.
- **BUILT** a detailed cash flow forecast that projected payroll cycles, tuition receipts, payment plans, and federal financial aid drawdowns tied to compliance schedules.
- **ADDED** bond payment obligations and planned capital projects to the forecast and compared the timing of cash inflows and outflows to identify periods when cash could fall short.
- **SHARED** cash flow projections with leadership, explained the trends, and advised on borrowing, endowment draw timing, and cost management decisions that could improve future cash flow stability.

THE RESULTS

- **DATA-DRIVEN COST MANAGEMENT:** Leadership had a clearer view of the institution's cash position, enabling more precise cost reduction decisions.
- **INFORMED ENDOWMENT STRATEGY:** The college used the cash flow information to adjust endowment draw timing and investment allocations so cash would be available when needed.
- **REDUCED BORROWING RISK:** Improved alignment of cash inflows and outflows reduced reliance on short-term borrowing.
- **STRONGER BUDGET DEVELOPMENT:** Cash flow projections gave leadership more accurate information for building the next fiscal year's budget.

THE IMPACT:

BY GIVING THE COLLEGE A CLEARER VIEW OF CASH FLOW DURING A LEADERSHIP TRANSITION, YPTC helped leadership make better-informed financial decisions. With a stronger understanding of timing and liquidity, the college could connect financial planning to the academic calendar and prepare more effectively for future needs.



CONTACT US with questions and learn more about our work with higher education institutions at <https://www.yptc.com/higher-education-specialization/>