

The Education Partnership

Executive Summary

Community Partner

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Student Consulting Team

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Background

The Education Partnership, TEP, is a non-profit headquartered in the West End of Pittsburgh where it has an office space and a warehouse. Their mission is to, *“provide school supplies for both students and teachers in low-income schools in Southwestern Pennsylvania.”* TEP currently provides support for 110 schools and more than 45,000 kids.

Project Description

Project Opportunity

One of the largest issues that The Education Partnership faces is tracking its inventory of items. This whole process is tedious because it is all done manually, and the technology TEP uses as a point of sales (POS) system, VendHQ, is not well optimized for TEP’s needs. Thus, TEP must go through multiple inefficient steps to upload data to Salesforce to update their inventory.

Project Vision

Our project vision is to create a cheaper web application that will replace TEP’s current POS system and be tailored to specifically to TEP’s business processes. We also want our project to modernize TEP’s checkout process by cutting down the number of steps that their employees need to go through to upload the data each day to update the inventory on Salesforce.

Project Outcomes

Our project has culminated in a custom web app, TallyHQ, that will be greatly utilized by The Education Partnership. In addition to allowing teachers to checkout their school supplies digitally, TallyHQ allows TEP to keep track of teacher, item, and school information, as well as promoting a more accurate inventory thanks to a more stringent verification process. Our application’s biggest impact is the time saved by TEP employees. TallyHQ reduces the inventory upload process time from months to minutes, thanks to a digital teacher checkout form and simple CSV download functions. TEP employees can spend their newfound time on other tasks that aid TEP in achieving their mission.

Project Deliverables

Our project will be delivered in the form of a responsive web application deployed to Heroku. Other deliverables include a link to the GitHub repository, admin login credentials, and documentation. The documentation that our team will provide consists of documentation for both technical and everyday users. To help facilitate the learning of our application, our team carried out a brief workshop that walked TEP's employees through the main functionalities of our website.

Recommendations

We recommend that TEP trains their employees using the application to ensure that tasks can be carried out in an efficient manner. We also recommend that TEP hires additional technical staff, such as an independent developer, to maintain the application. Finally, TEP should constantly export their data to back up their data and ensure that no data is lost, and dump data annually to keep the cost of the application as low as possible.

Student Consulting Team

Kyle Chin served as quality assurance manager and lead developer. He is a junior double majoring in Information Systems and Computer Science. He will be interning at Curai and hopes to do something cool in the future.

Nathan Jen served as project manager. He is a third-year student majoring in Information Systems with minors in Business Administration and Human-Computer Interaction. He will be interning at Deloitte Consulting this summer and aspires to be a technology consultant or project manager.

Joe Segel was the client relations manager. He is a junior majoring in Information Systems with minors in Business Administration and Human-Computer Interaction. He will be interning with Progressive Insurance this summer. He plans to be a project manager in a future career.