



## How Johnston Community College Uses **Clarity**<sup>™</sup> to Track Spending Against Budget and Improve Its Budgeting Culture on Campus

Facing a new academic year with legacy budgeting practices, Johnston Community College determined that the campus needed to improve its business processes and become more efficient. Enter *FundFive*.

Budgeting for an institution is a complex and increasingly pressing challenge. Responsibilities for managing funds on a weekly basis are often distributed across an institution, from academic officers to enrollment managers to athletic staff. As budget managers represent various factions of the business, requests can come with competing needs and interests. Such practices can result in those who need to be “in the know” being left out of the decisions at a granular level.

Johnston Community College, a midsized community college in Smithfield, North Carolina, understands the importance of transparency and fiscal responsibility.

As a growing community college, the decision to implement **Clarity**<sup>™</sup> signals a shift towards improving the budgeting culture and informing the business office about all financial decisions across the institution.

### **Opportunity: Improving the Budgeting Culture**

For Johnston Community College, understanding how money flowed across the institution – at a macro level, to administrative, student services, and curriculum business units – was a daunting task. The effort relied on running hundreds of individual reports from within Colleague over the course of a semester, and then compiling data manually into multiple spreadsheets. As a member of the North Carolina Community College System, the timing of the budget distribution complicated the process further.

## Institution Snapshot



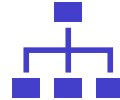
5,379

Student Enrollment



453

Staff Size



1,789

Business Units



1

Insights Platform

“The budgeting piece is something that we’ve been missing here at Johnston, and we typically had to wait until after the System Office tells us what our allocation would be,” explained David Webb, Controller at Johnston Community College. “After receiving our annual allocation, we would then split it across the different operating units based on previous years’ experience.”

**Clarity**<sup>™</sup> now offers Johnston Community College an opportunity to take a proactive approach to budgeting in advance of receiving its distribution, instead of simply basing their budgets on the previous year. This cultural shift will enable Johnston Community College to employ zero-based thinking and prepare upcoming year projections going from the need to the budget rather than from the budget to the need. As Budget Managers track expenses throughout the year using the insights provided by **Clarity**<sup>™</sup>, they can now realize their budgetary needs and know in which accounts available funds reside with great ease. According to Webb, **Clarity**<sup>™</sup> allows “management staff to direct spending and know what they have available in their budgets.” This insights-based approach now helps to incite transparency within distributed units of the institution where once only untimely reports existed.

### Deployment: A Proven Approach

*FundFive* brings decades of Higher Education leadership and experience, a deep cultural understanding of information technology, and software implementation practices into its engagements. “*FundFive* had intimate knowledge of how our systems work, and made the implementation of **Clarity**<sup>™</sup> simple,” said John M. Whitenton, System Administrator at Johnston Community College. Once an environment to host **Clarity**<sup>™</sup> was provisioned, Whitenton notes that

*FundFive* handled all of the heavy lifting, allowing the JCC team to focus on other priorities demanding the attention of IT. Angela Moore, Director of Network Services at JCC proclaimed, “**This has been the easiest and most painless implementation we’ve ever done!**” She recalls that the implementation was mostly hands-off and required little attention outside of weekly check-ins.

### Strategic: Process Improvement and Faster Insight

Budget transfer requests have always been submitted via spreadsheet, and then hand-entered into Colleague for approval. As a member institution of the Development Partnership Program, Johnston Community College will work with *FundFive* to make this task an integral part of **Clarity**<sup>™</sup>. “We now have an opportunity to improve the workflow of our approval process,” says Webb.

While the vision for how best to improve budgeting and spending on campus is still being defined, **Clarity**<sup>™</sup> will now enable campus leadership to review the state of finances in a single view and receive updates on the items that matter most to the institution, positioning Johnston Community College to lead with insights to help tackle the cumbersome task of budgeting for an institution using antiquated tools.

Individuals responsible for department budgets will estimate annual budget needs through **Clarity**<sup>™</sup>, streamlining the budgeting process and centralizing workflow to aid leadership in strategic decision making.



JOHNSTON  
COMMUNITY  
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Learn more about *FundFive* and *Clarity* at [fundfive.com/clarity](https://fundfive.com/clarity)