

Lewis University transforms the student experience with a unified campus app



CASE STUDY

Lewis University

INDUSTRY

Higher Education

Located just southwest of Chicago, [Lewis University](#) is a comprehensive, Catholic university with 6500 students and a 410 acre campus. It's known for its high level of interaction with students, an ethos that cascades through all departments, including the Office of Technology.

“Our directive is to create a student experience that walks with them throughout their educational journey,” said Lewis University Chief Information Officer, Dr. LeRoy Butler.

Until recently, the digital experience at Lewis was spread across three main tools: the university website, portal, and mobile app—all from different providers and all essentially information repositories. When the portal solution was discontinued, Dr. Butler seized the moment to improve and evolve the entire experience.

“Instead of just replacing the existing portal we looked at the whole picture. We had different information residing in different systems. Students were becoming more mobile-inclined. And we saw an opportunity to create the experience of walking with students in a virtual space. We just needed the right platform to build that experience.”

After rigorous research, the university's review committee identified 70 potential platforms, narrowed it down to 12, then invited four providers to demonstrate how they would solve the problem. “It was overwhelmingly decided that MODO was the solution of choice,” said Lewis University's Technical Coordinator Donna Flowers.

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Dr. LeRoy Butler, CIO
Lewis University

Lewis University selected [Modo Campus](#), a sophisticated low-code platform with out-of-the-box integrations that enable colleges and universities to easily deliver, build, manage, and expand highly-personalized campus apps students love using.

Consolidating Multiple Tools With One Platform

Dr. Butler prioritized unification of the experience as goal number one—transferring all of the data and tools from the portal into the Modo platform environment and developing a clean, consistent presentation of that information on mobile devices and desktops.

“We had a very aggressive timeline for implementation, and no one individual had ownership of the legacy portal solution,” Dr. Butler explained. “Our Technical Coordinator, Donna Flowers, took it on, managing the project from initiation to launch.”



With strong support from the Lewis University leadership team, fluid communication and collaboration between Modo, integration partner N2N, and the Lewis University team—and the benefit of a low-code approach—Flowers was able to bring the MyLewis app online in just seven weeks!

Flowers explained, “You don’t have to have a team of five developers and a project manager to make this happen quickly. It’s more about the planning and people involved versus the amount of resources you have available.”

Designing an Integrated Experience with Students at the Center

Lewis University has a diverse mix of students including full-time traditional and transfer undergraduates, working adults and graduate students, and international students. “Regardless of whether the students are attending classes on one of our campuses, or enrolled in online courses, our goal is to make information easily accessible, while providing a personalized student experience.”

The myLewis portal, available on desktop and mobile, is a unified hub of information and tools. There are experiences for new and existing students, faculty and staff. In addition to personalized schedules, maps and wayfinding, localized alerts, and access to dining and transit options, the app also includes integrated functionality of the Ellucian Banner student information system. With this capability students can access registration status, grades and financial transactions, and add/drop courses right from the app—all from a single sign-on.

Lewis University has also integrated its Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system into the app. Faculty and staff can review, update and edit data right from the app.

Reception and Impact

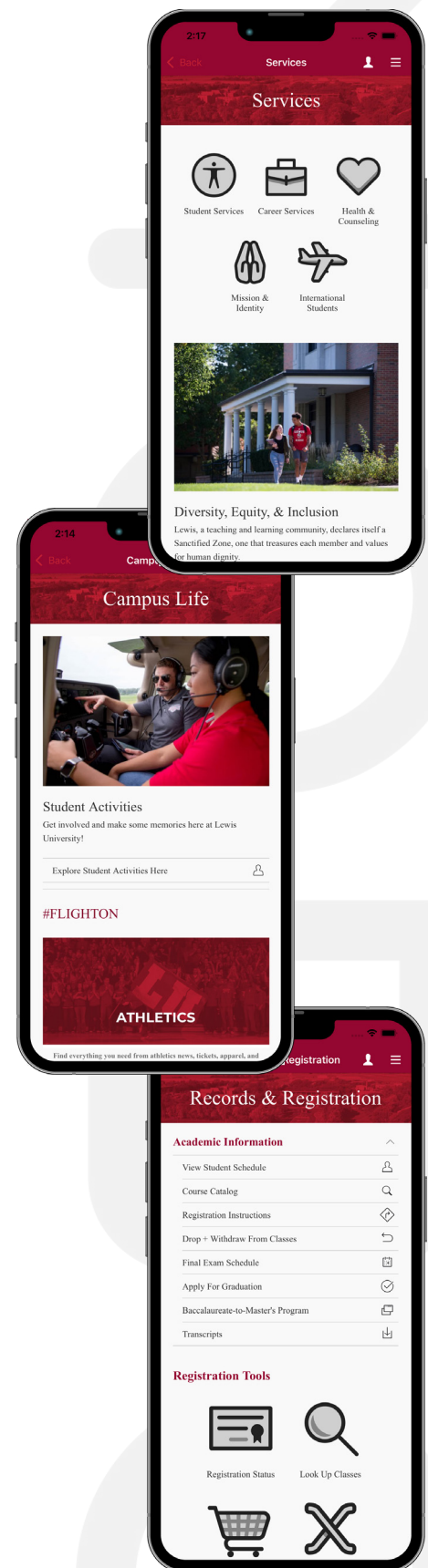
The integrated myLewis app was intended to replace the legacy portal, but Dr. Butler and his team ran both environments simultaneously for a period of time to ease the transition. “As people logged into the MODO platform and saw the benefits over the legacy system, the community voted with their feet and very few people continued to use the old solution. That’s a testament. The community saw the benefits and they embraced it.”

Butler noted the enthusiastic reception to the unified app. “As people begin to see the features and capabilities of our new tools they want to do more and more.” He added, “We don’t look at this project as ‘put in a solution and thank you for your service.’ Our relationship with MODO and its integration partners is a partnership. It will continue this year and into the future. We meet regularly with an advisory committee to help us map out future technology. We’re always looking at the potential of what could be possible.”

Visit modolabs.com/modocampus to learn more, access Starter Kits and resources, or get a demo.

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