

Hi Everyone,

Over three years ago you came together to better understand Business Intelligence at the University and its importance to our future. You developed a proposal that defined a vision for a BI Competency Center and created momentum for building a BI community and infrastructure. I'm writing today to give you an important update on the progress we have made in two significant areas.

First, I am very pleased to announce that M-Reports, a suite of Web based reports with guided analytics, went live last week. The system is available to the deans and directors who complete the internal controls certification letter and their staff. Feedback has been very positive. Later this spring we will use M-Reports to provide financial statements to principal investigators and their research administrators, and in the future it will include dashboards and metrics for performance monitoring.

Secondly, MAIS has created a new division devoted to Business Intelligence to support M-Reports in production. It will also enable us to deliver more BI content and provide content faster. We've pulled together the M-Reports team, the Data Delivery (the data warehouse group) team and the Data Administration team to create a strong foundation for building BI applications and tools. The new department reports to John Gohsman and positions MAIS to better support the many current and future BI initiatives across campus, including a BI competency center, if the University chooses in the future to create one.

The University is in a challenging period and needs to contain costs and increase its innovation to invigorate the State's economy. I can't think of a more important initiative on campus than BI to help the University meet these challenges. Competition for faculty and students is intense, and pressures from globalization are causing us to rethink our delivery of research and instruction.

I want to personally thank you for your contribution in moving BI from a concept to reality on our campus, and I look forward to your continued guidance and support.

Laura