

# Kuali 2.0 Blog

Kuali is entering our second decade and we're innovating again. [Here are the details.](#)

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[Circle City: An Apt Metaphor for Kuali Days 2014](#)

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[The more things change, the more they look the same... with additions](#)

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[Dear President](#)

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[Innovating for the future: A conversation with the Kuali community](#)

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## Community Strategy Sessions

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Dear Kuali Community,

I write on behalf of the Kuali Foundation Board to provide a short summary following our two highly successful **Kuali Community Strategy Sessions**. We had 38 in attendance at the June session in Minneapolis and 63 at the Salt Lake City session last week. We were delighted to see such broad participation from the community as attendees came from 22 institutions (large and small), five Kuali Commercial Affiliates, and from all levels of Kuali work, including technical, functional, and senior administrators.

I served as facilitator for the sessions, and we used both electronic brainstorming and verbal debates to work through a series of questions that included:

1. What is Kuali doing well now?
2. Where can we get better in resource allocation, processes, and delivery of the Kuali software?
3. How has the world changed since Kuali's first decade and what is needed for the future?
4. What are some of the options and how might they serve the needs of colleges and universities over the next decade?

It is impossible to compress 20 hours of meetings, dinner conversations, and discussions among 100 people into a few bullets, but both workshops yielded some common themes:

- Kuali has achieved a number of very real and valuable successes for our members. Our software is of high quality and proven in production at scores of institutions of varying types and sizes, and also outside of the US. Our community remains incredibly strong in sharing best practices, providing mutual support, and doing more than just writing code. And we have developed an ecosystem of commercial partners who provide a variety of forms of support in a competitive marketplace.
- The world is changing from our 2004 roots, and the approach that Kuali pioneered and has succeeded with in our first decade must evolve for success in our second decade, and that includes growing interest and investment from outside of the US.
- We need to accelerate completion of our full suite of Kuali software applications, and to do so we need access to substantially more capital than we have secured to date to meet this need of colleges and universities.
- Many institutions that have not yet embraced Kuali, and some that have, will favor off-premises, cloud-based services for Kuali applications while others will continue to value the ability to download full-featured open source software that they can run locally. Fully open source and downloadable software will continue to provide all institutions protection from market vagaries for the future.
- Kuali should consider any applicable insights from a new breed of "professional open source" firms (ex. RedHat, MySQL, Instructure) that are succeeding in blending

commercial, open source, and foundation models. This should include consideration of possibly creating a commercial arm of the Kuali community. See [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Professional\\_open\\_source](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Professional_open_source).

- There are opportunities right now for process improvement in inter-project coordination, integration, and better application of best practices within Kuali as a whole.
- The Kuali Foundation board should give this our highest priority in sorting through what we heard, what we are learning from others, and what will accelerate Kuali success for colleges and universities in the near and longer term.

We can all celebrate that 100 members of our community adjusted their calendars and invested more than two days of travel and meeting time during a busy summer season. The foundation board is grateful for the breadth of participation and vigorous debate at the sessions. We learned much in hearing directly from the members of the Kuali community who create, implement, and regularly use Kuali software.

We will keep you apprised as we think through these insights, and the community will continue to be fully engaged with our current project roadmaps, software development for planned releases, and ongoing work while we also think about our future. As always, please feel free to email Jennifer Foutty or any of us with further thoughts toward another successful decade for the Kuali community of colleges, universities, and commercial affiliates.

Brad Wheeler

For the Kuali Foundation Board