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UT SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER WINS 1992 COST REDUCTION AWARD

DALLAS--The online cafeteria orders and billing system developed by The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas has won a cost-reduction incentive award from the National Association of College and University Business Officers and the USX Foundation.

The system allows departments to order food service for university functions by computer. UT Southwestern's auxiliary enterprises business office processes the order online, and the account is billed the day of the function.

The UT Southwestern online forms system is different from systems used at other universities. "We built a complete system that updates data files on an online, real-time basis. It's the premier system out there," said Al Thibodeau, coordinator of management support services at UT Southwestern.

The online system is beneficial to both users and auxiliary enterprises. "User departments can know the status of accounts on a current basis," Thibodeau said. "The new system allows them to understand and interpret the charges on a more timely basis and questions can be more easily resolved."

It also allows auxiliary enterprises to speed up the ordering process and to realize income more quickly, Thibodeau said.

A cost analysis estimated savings from using the online form system at more than \$700,000 per year in processing efficiency.

(More)

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The system also saves money by eliminating the cost of printing paper forms.

The Cost Reduction Incentive Awards Program is open to colleges and universities throughout the world. It is designed to stimulate an awareness of the best use of financial, human and natural resources on campus and to foster the development of cost-effective ideas. The program encourages colleges and universities to reduce costs campuswide and to share their cost-saving innovations with other higher education institutions.

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NOTE: The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas comprises Southwestern Medical School, Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Southwestern Allied Health Sciences School, affiliated teaching hospitals and outpatient clinics.