Final Project: Your Choice, Your Future Website

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EDF 6235 Project Management

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November 28, 2018

Your Choice, Your Future Website

Impact Statement

With an increase of school choices, it can be difficult to navigate the selections available. There is a significant need for a collaborative collection of all accessible schooling options and scholarships. There were 31 more charter schools that opened in Florida in 2018 alone (Mascareñas, 2018). Calculate in the private school, virtual, and alternative school options and the information to wade through can become overwhelming for any parent or educational stakeholder. Coalescing all the necessary information into one site pertaining to these options will create a one-stop-spot for all to manage the educational needs of every student. While every school wants to provide the best education, each has different mission statements, curriculum choices, and initiatives that are driven to provide that instruction; these differences are the nuances that color the choices that students have in their educational plan. Choosing the right school helps your student to paint their brightest future.

Introduction

The topic that I have chosen for the final project is to develop a website that will educate parents, guidance counselors, teachers, other school personnel and students about the many educational options offered to the meet the needs of all students. For instance, there are public, charter, private, virtual, homeschool, and alternative options. The site will provide information for available scholarships, graduation options, and curriculum. It will also include a list of local schools and contacts. There are so many kids that struggle with traditional school and can benefit from an alternative route.

I have spent the last few years seeking out school options and would like to share that knowledge. I want to help parents that are watching as their child struggles with bullying, anxiety, a disability, giftedness, or any one of so many hardships that make traditional school a challenge. There are options available that so many parents are not aware of those options. There is a plethora of information abound, but it is difficult and time-consuming to muddle through it all, so I want to design a comprehensive site that provides all the information in one easy to access location.

For this project, it could go either way. There is a lot of information to wade through and many ways that it could be configured, so it would be best to have a management methodology that I can revise and alter as needed. Agile is new to me so by applying Agile practices to this project it will allow me to become more familiar with the process.

Team Charter

Learning Team Goals
- Everyone takes ownership of project and adheres to the group decided deadlines and due dates.
- Weekly assignments are completed with approximate 24-hour margin to allow group members opportunity for final review and feedback before submission.
- Weekly meetings via Blackboard Collaborate Mondays 8:00 am and Fridays 4:00 pm
- Group members will be prepared for weekly meetings with status updates and to show progress

What are potential barriers to the achievement of these goals?

- Group members missing meetings
- Group members not being prepared with assignments during weekly collaboration
- Outside responsibilities (work, family, etc) that may hinder task completion.

Ground Rules
- Meet weekly on Mondays 8:00 am and Fridays 4:00 pm
- We will be meeting over Blackboard Collaborate with audio, video, chat, and files to view
- Meeting are mandatory except for circumstances deemed extenuating by project manager
- Communicate via email, One Drive, Backboard Collaborate, text, phone

Conflict Management
What are potential conflicts that might arise among or between team members during this course? How will team members deal with these and other conflicts?

Conflicts could include:

- Lack of effort
- Being assigned to something they don't want to do.
- Take on a difficult challenges and tasks.

How to manage conflicts:

- Status updates with OneDrive
- Team members should maintain thorough communication throughout the project

All team members participated in the creation of this charter and agree with its contents.

Please sign below:

Project Plan

Brainstorm/Background

I have struggled with finding the best way to educate my own children. My children have attended public, charter, and private schools. When the opportunity arose to try homeschooling a new set of challenges were presented. I decided to develop a website to educate students, parents, guidance counselors, teachers, other school personnel about educational options. Public, charter, private, virtual, homeschool, and alternative school opportunities are available. The site will provide information for available scholarships, graduation options, and curriculum. It will also include a list of local schools and contacts. There are so many kids that struggle with traditional school and can benefit from an alternative route.

Need

- Traditional brick-and-mortar schools are not the right fit for all students. There is a need to educate parents, care takers, students, school personal, and counselors about the many education options offered to the meet the needs of all students.

- Providing students and parents with educational options will empower them to choose a school that is the right fit.

- The training will change over time depending on available options. As schools, curriculum, and options change so will the information.

Responses

There public, charter, private, virtual, and homeschool. Available scholarships, graduation options, and curriculum. A list of local schools and contacts can help parents decide on a school. There are so many kids that struggle with traditional school and can benefit from an alternative route. I have spent the last few years seeking out those options and would like to share that knowledge.

Learning audience

- Learners that will benefit from the website are students and parents alike. Guidance counselors, teachers, and principals can also use the information to the best fit every student.

- School options will vary based in geographical location. Most information provided will be based on local options, but there are often similar options throughout Florida and The United States.

- There is not any prior knowledge needed, although a basic understanding of the education system and requirements for graduation would be beneficial.

- Parents of students and students at all grade levels can benefit from knowing their educational options. Individuals in the education field can also assist students and parents make informed decisions.

- Users may find that they utilize the content at various levels of their education. Users may refer to the information for multiple students and utilize the information differently. To adapt the information and expand it will be important to stay up-to-date with school options.

- The sub-audience would be the students that use the information for to make empowered decisions concerning their own education. The site will meet the needs of all audiences.

Objectives

- The objective is to provide every student with the opportunity to find an educational option that is best for them.

Assumptions

- The assumptions are that students need choices and parents need help finding the best available options for their child. Some may state the information is redundant or that the school board can provide the same information, however I know from experience that there are so many different options spread over many different databases and resources that it is a daunting task to locate and combine the information. That is why this website is so important.

Team Composition

- The team will work two hours daily to complete the project on time.

- Utilizing Agile the team members will complete sprints to gather the content and build the website.

- Communication between members will be achieved through daily Scrum meetings and weekly sprint reviews through virtual conferences and email as needed.

- During daily Scrum meetings we will discuss yesterday's objectives and set goals for the day. We will evaluate the project and maintain pace for the sprint.

- The team will be composed of me, team member, the Project Manager or Scrum Master, Product Owner, SME's, Graphic/Visual Designer, and testers.

Role	Responsibilities
Senior level Project Manager/Scrum Master	• Develop page layout • Determine content • Set timeline • Manage Scrum sprints

	• Maintain communication
Several SME's for information on the various types of schools, programs, scholarships, and grants	• Provide information for -schools -technical programs -adult ed programs -alternative graduation programs -school options -scholarship/grant options -any other pertinent information
Graphic/Visual Designer	• Design graphics • Work with Project Manager to design a layout that is aesthetically pleasing, yet functionable
Senior level Coding expert	• Write the site using HTML
Testers	• Be sure the site is integrally sound and functions

*Senior level project manager/Scum master and coding experts are necessary since I do not have much experience myself and I need more guidance.

Schedule/Communication
 • All content will be included, and the project finished by November 28, 2018.

User Story	10/2/2018	10/4/2018	0.3 wks
Backlog	10/5/2018	10/8/2018	0.4 wks
Brainstorm	10/8/2018	10/10/2018	0.3 wks
Gather Content/Meet SMEs	10/11/2018	10/18/2018	1 wk
Design	10/26/2018	11/2/2018	1 wk
Design Approval	11/12/2018	11/15/2018	0.4 wks
Development	11/16/2018	11/23/2018	1 wk
Quality Assurance	11/24/2018	11/26/2018	0.4 wks
Deployment	11/27/2018	11/27/2018	0.1 wks
Next Interation	11/28/2018	11/28/2018	0.1 wks

Since our team operates remotely communication will be via email during the week. This will keep the team up-to-date and allow open communication for any questions or issues. There will be a One Drive to compile all files, charts, and visuals in one place. There will be weekly

meetings on Monday mornings at 8:00 am and Fridays at 4:00 pm via Blackboard Collaborate to view sprint burndown charts, reflect on sprints, and set-up the next iteration.

*I know that there are more business-friendly communication tools, but I am not familiar with them, so I am sticking to what I know.

Costs

The budget will include the cost of hiring an off-staff IT specialist to assist in website development.

Project will take approximately 30 hours

Role	Cost
Senior level Project Manager/Scrum Master	$60/hr x 30 = $1,800
Several SME's for information on the various types of schools, programs, scholarships, and grants	$50/hr x 30 = $1,500
Graphic/Visual Designer	$30/hr x 30 = $900
Senior level Coding expert/IT Specialist	$80/hr x 30 = $2,400
Testers	$20/hr x 30 = $600
Total	$7,200

Update/Revision Considerations

I will use the Agile project model and the Scrum framework. The team will to revise as throughout the project.

Risks

The main risk is verifying the quality of the information. Improper information can undermine the integrity of the project.

Content

- The content already exists, it is just not in one comprehensive location.
- Some of the information will change based on educational options, schools, and district regulations.

 The website will be able to be viewed on PC, Mac, and mobile devices.

Politics

SME's will be district contacts, local guidance counselors, and adult education specialists that will assist in providing educational options.

Project Management

I will utilize a hybrid life cycle for this Agile based project. Since there will be information being used from many sources, regarding different schools it is important to have a plan that is laid out, yet flexible. SCRUM sprints will be used to complete the various sections of the website and phases of development.

This graphic from Requirements, Inc. showcases the life cycle of my project.
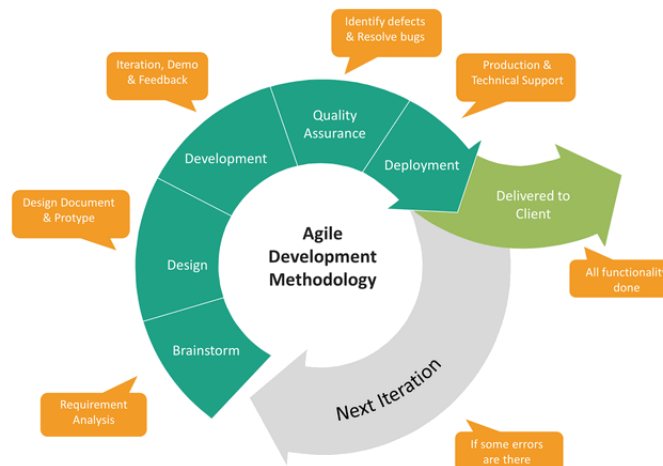
(Requirements, Inc. n.d.)

Backlog

Gather Content

Schools:

public, charter, private, virtual, homeschool, and alternative schools

> • Interview SME- principals of local school/school district for information for each

>> • Schools in area

>> • Contacts

Graduation programs offered:

Early GED, Adult Ed, 21st Century Program

> • Interview SME- local adult ed/school district

Colleges:

Scholarships, grants

    • Interview SME- local college financial aid offices

Materials

For this project I will need:
• Computer with internet access
• Weebly or another website host
• Project Manager and consultant team
• Several SME's for information on the various types of schools, programs, scholarships, and grants
• Designer
• Access to graphics or graphic designer
• Coding expert
• Student testers
• Parent testers
• Teacher tester
• Time

Development

Code and write the website, add in graphics

Design

Create the design documents, prototype, and graphics
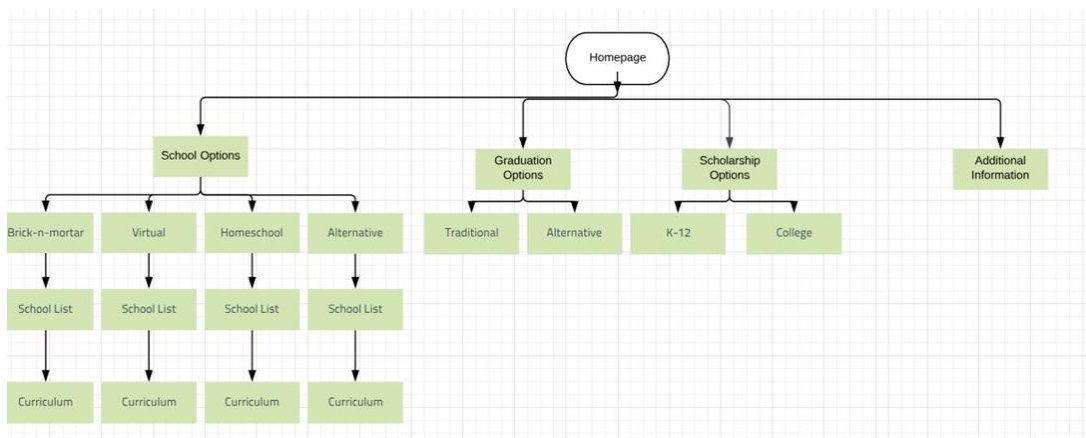
Quality Assurance

Check for spelling, coding, and information errors.

Testing

I will use the survey below to assess the success of the project and any revises that need to be made. The beta-testers will assist in finding missed links, typos, a lack of or extraneous information, they will check the flow of the site and aesthetics.

[PDF icon]
Your Choice, Your
Future Website Beta-T

Deployment

The website for the project Your Choice, Your Future will be deployed, and the link will be shared across social media platforms for the various schools listed in the site, as well as, links provided on their school websites. The site will also be linked on school district sites, Step-up and McKay websites and other educational option sites across the internet and social media platforms.

Delivery

- The project will be deployed by launching the site online. The web address will be provided to schools, districts, parents, and students to help students find the school and educational path that is best suited for them.

- The website will be reviewed quarterly to determine if revisions are needed.

Retrospective

To end the project the Scrum master will conduct a Retrospective of the overall outcome. The Three 3 L's approach will be used to determine what was Liked, Learned, and Lacked. This chart will be placed in a collaborative share document, so the team can fill it in prior to the synchronous meeting.

The 3 L's Retrospective

Liked	Learned	Lacked

Summary

The goal was to develop a website that will educate parents, guidance counselors, teachers, other school personnel and students about the many educational options offered to the meet the needs of all students. To do so it was imperative to gather content from subject matter experts with the state, local school boards, and schools. There are public, charter, private, virtual, homeschool, and alternative options available. The site that was developed also provided information for available scholarships, graduation options, and curriculum. The list of local schools and contacts is comprehensive and includes many local options. There are so many kids that struggle with traditional school and can benefit from an alternative route.

It was decided that Agile practices would be utilized to manage the project. A Scrum master, designer and IT specialist was hired for round out the team. User stories were written to create the backlog and SME's were utilized to assist in gathering the content. Our team met often, and we worked through many sprints to develop and deliver the site. The biggest challenge that was faced was scheduling Scrum meetings. Since our team is completing this project on the side there were some issues with managing a time, we were all available, but as professionals we worked together and found a solution that worked for all on the team.

I am very pleased with the final product. This site will impact the way that parents are able to access educational information. There are an abundance of choices can be overwhelming, this site can assist in understanding the available options and help all stakeholders to find the educational option that is best.

References

Mascareñas, Isabel. (2018, May 17). Charter school enrollment in Florida is up, growth surpasses traditional schools. Retrieved from https://www.wtsp.com/article/news/education/charter-school-enrollment-in-florida-is-up-growth-surpasses-traditional-schools/67-553118263

Requirements Inc. (n.d.). *Project Management* [Grapic]. Retrieved from https://requirementsinc.com/product/agile/agilepm-foundation-certification/