ERP in the Classroom:
An Abstract Related to a Work in Process

Gina M. Boff
California University of Pennsylvania

Lisa L. Kovalchick
California University of Pennsylvania

Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) is an Information Systems paradigm that streamlines business processes such that "companies once using disparate information systems can execute seamless business transactions using integrated information-technology solutions" (Boff, 2002). Typically vendor supplied by such companies as Oracle and SAP, ERP systems can report a real-time pulse on the entity that can be weighed against current market conditions for optimal decision making (Boff & Reese, 2008).

ERP, still very much sought after, "has consistently remained among the top IT spending priorities in large corporations, growing at the rate of 6.9 percent each year and set to top the $50 billion mark globally in 2012."(Wailgum, 2009).

Current statistics show that graduates who had ERP and/or SAP coursework attain higher starting salaries than those who did not and that those salaries increase in accordance with the number of classes the student took. (Grey & McCann, 2009).

Despite indicators pointing to a need for ERP in the classroom, universities lag. As such, the authors intend to explore, through this work-in-process:

1. the major obstacles in instituting such a curriculum in universities, and
2. sucess factors where ERP/SAP has been built into curriculum so as to help universities not having such coursework, move forward.

While the authors intend to share insights gained on the subject to date, the primary purpose of this abstract submission is to incite dialog with the audience of professional educators so as to gain some additional insights in both the progress – and the drawbacks – experienced at other universities.

Keywords: ERP, SAP, Enterprise Resource Planning, ERP Curriculum, SAP Curriculum

Boff, G.M. (2002). *Implementing an Enterprise Resource Planning System: What Differentiates the Corporations that Make It from Those that Do Not.* Retrieved from *UMI Dissertation Publishing, ProQuest Information and Learning.* (AAT 3091380)

Boff, G.M., Reese, M.A. (2007). A Step Closer to Pure Global Competition: Mastering Master Data for Emerging Global Companies as they Implement ERP, *Issues in Information Systems: Globalization and Information Systems, Vol.VIII*(2), 392-398.

Grey, D., McCann, D. (2009). SAP/ERP Technology in a Higher Education Curriculum and the University Alliance Program, *Issues in Information Systems, Vol.X*(1), 176-182.

Wailgrum, T. (2009). Why ERP Is Still So Hard, *CIO*, retrieved from http://www.cio.com/article/501656.