



## Vincennes University Logistics Training and Education Center

Supply chain and logistics  
training center bolsters its  
operations with cutting-edge  
warehouse technologies





enVista enabled VU LTEC to automate its inbound warehouse and outbound logistics processes using state-of-the-art supply chain technologies.

**“enVista is enabling us to provide our students with a hands-on experience using today’s advanced supply chain and information technology. I look forward to our continued partnership.”**

**–James Dolan,  
Director of Logistics**

#### THE COMPANY

Vincennes University Logistics Training and Education Center (VU LTEC) is an Indianapolis-based non-profit and educational facility. VU LTEC uses its 40,000 square-foot warehouse as a real-world training ground for its students. Its mission is to develop and deliver industry-approved education and training programs that meet the ever-increasing demands of employers in the logistics industry. A portion of the educational program involves training students on the type of equipment and technology usually found in a working warehouse.

In order to simulate a realistic supply chain, VU LTEC partnered with First Book, a national book bank that receives and distributes donated books to children in schools across the United States. However, VU LTEC faced a series of hurdles that limited its ability to provide students and workers with the relevant warehouse technology and logistics training needed to further their supply chain careers. To assist VU LTEC in its mission, enVista provided complimentary supply chain expertise and services. enVista enabled VU LTEC to bolster its warehouse and shipping operations by implementing state-of-the-art supply chain technologies, including Microsoft Dynamics® AX ERP, a warehouse management system, and voice picking and pick-to-light systems.

#### THE CHALLENGE

VU LTEC was awarded a grant from the Department of Labor for the purpose of developing a supply chain curriculum that would provide students and displaced workers with the experience needed to have a career in supply chain and logistics. Part of that curriculum involved training students on the type of equipment and technology usually found in a working warehouse. “Our goal is to produce a trained, educated and certified workforce. If there is a new technology or process in the logistics industry, we want our students to have the opportunity to learn it firsthand before entering the workforce,” said James Dolan, VU LTEC Director of Logistics.

However, VU LTEC’s existing operations relied on a paper-based pick method. Inventory control and inbound tracking was supported merely by the use of stand-alone Excel spreadsheets. Under this system, it took VU LTEC up to a week to process a single truckload. The lack of a centralized and comprehensive inventory management solution led to slower processing times, duplicate work and inefficient processes. More importantly, it was preventing the students from gaining the relevant warehouse and logistics knowledge needed to further their supply chain careers.



*To support these new technologies and hardware, enVista:*

- *Deployed Microsoft Dynamics AX in the Cloud*
- *Sourced racking and conveyor systems and provided expertise for the design and layout of the pick-to-light system*
- *Installed the wireless infrastructure throughout the 40,000 square-foot warehouse in order to enable the exchange of real-time inventory data between Microsoft Dynamics AX and the various picking technologies*

## **THE SOLUTION: ERP AND INTEGRATED WAREHOUSE MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY**

As VU LTEC was evaluating what technology to include as part of its training curriculum, it was clear that an ERP system had to be the starting point. After consulting with enVista, VU LTEC selected Microsoft Dynamics AX 2012 R3 and its Advanced Warehousing module. “We chose it [Dynamics AX] based on two factors,” said Dolan. First, it is a new, cutting-edge product. Dynamics AX was determined to be the product that would keep VULTEC ahead of the curve in organizing its warehouse operations and training its students. Secondly, VU LTEC was confident in the product based on name recognition and the navigation comfort level that a Microsoft product offers. A key benefit of Dynamics AX is that it includes an integrated warehouse management system (WMS) and transportation management system (TMS), which allowed VU LTEC to leverage a single system for its supply chain needs and avoid the cost associated with purchasing multiple, independent systems.

enVista’s solution was highlighted by a series of in-kind donations that started with an implementation of Dynamics AX 2012 R3 Advanced Warehousing in the cloud, which provided the flexibility necessary to address productivity, accuracy and efficiency within the warehouse and shipping operations. To optimize inbound efficiencies and outbound order processing, enVista leveraged its existing relationships with hardware vendors to outfit VU LTEC’s warehouse with state-of-the-art warehouse picking technology.

Utilizing its proprietary Enhanced Integration Framework for Dynamics AX, enVista seamlessly integrated Honeywell Vocollect voice picking, Lightning Pick pick-to-light, and radio frequency (RF) terminals with the Advanced Warehousing module in Dynamics AX. Additionally, enVista worked closely with the Microsoft Dynamics product development team to pioneer a new interface for the Dynamics AX TMS, which enabled VU LTEC to access real-time shipping rates from FedEx and UPS and create carrier shipping manifests from within Dynamics AX.

## **THE RESULTS**

The successful implementation of Microsoft Dynamics AX 2012 R3 Advanced Warehousing along with integrated warehouse technology and hardware has enabled VU LTEC to automate its inbound warehouse and outbound logistics processes with a focus on the physical movement of goods. They are now able to obtain the transportation manifest, create a PO to receive against, and efficiently put away truckloads of inventory. Instead of using spreadsheets and a paper-based pick method for order processing, students are now garnering valuable experience with VU LTEC’s new pick-to-light system, RF terminals and voice picking headsets – the tools and technology they will need to use in their supply chain careers. VU LTEC students and teachers are enjoying the best of both worlds by working in an efficiently run, state-of-the-art warehouse and having access to a real-life, hands-on learning experience.



Contact us today for a free discovery call with an enVista consultant.

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