Successful IT Implementation with CCIFPs

BY MELISSA RUTLEDGE, CCIFP, CHAIRMAN

In my years of experience in construction finance, the financial professional works collaboratively to develop and communicate a company’s strategic vision. Many factors helped develop this mindset, but the advancement of information technology (IT) may be one of the most compelling.

IT and specialized software has helped shape our profession. The specialized skill set of someone responsible for the finances of construction projects necessitates sophisticated software systems to meet specialized business needs. Much like CCIFPs have demonstrated their commitment to excellence in construction financial management, software companies are also dedicated to developing their product solely for users in our industry.

Industry-specific software has allowed CFMs to provide more timely and effective solutions. As construction financial professionals who rely on the expertise of individuals in the IT space, it is important to recognize those in software development who have also demonstrated their commitment to our industry by becoming CCIFPs. That expertise and value speaks to us as CFMs.

Many of us can relate to the formidable task of identifying and implementing software. This undertaking requires an immense time commitment from individuals who are intimately familiar with construction-specific accounting principles.

While only 3% of the CCIFP exam content includes questions concerning IT, the body of knowledge that CCIFPs demonstrate on the rest of the exam is even more important to a successful implementation. With a CCIFP involved, the team can be confident that expert knowledge is at work.

Software is consistently evolving to meet our specific needs. CCIFPs must also evolve and remain on the cusp (or even steps ahead) of an environment that can, at times, be volatile. CCIFPs demonstrate a commitment to keeping their skills current through 72 hours of required continued professional education – two-thirds of which is required to be construction-specific.

By including a CCIFP as a valued member of your implementation team, you are setting your organization up to not only be successful, but also for it to be on the cutting edge of our profession. Ask your software company and/or consultant to provide a CCIFP on your implementation team. Also, look inside your organization: Do you have a CCIFP on your staff? If not, why not? If you do, empower them to lead your company into the future.