

CVCC : Proactive in Campus Protection

Case Study

March 2015

Catawba Valley Community College

Located in Hickory, North Carolina, Catawba Valley Community College serves thousands of students across multiple campuses. Offering a variety of programs aimed at empowering students, it is evident that this educational center is devoted to their college community. With this commitment to their students, faculty and community, the college began to reexamine their security procedures and overall safety of their campus.

The Challenge

In 2008, in the wake of increased violence at schools, universities, and colleges across the country, Catawba Valley Community College enacted a search in for security solutions that would ensure the safety of their staff and students. At that time, Ken Elliot, the college's Chief Operations Officer, recalls that their security system was non-existent; their protocol solely consisted of security officers with megaphones running through the halls alerting the campus that a lockdown procedure was occurring. With the school's spread-out campus, the team addressing the campus' security knew their protocol without a system to back it up would no longer suffice.

“No situation is the same, but we can do just about anything we need to with this system. In my opinion the system is phenomenal.”

*-Ken Elliot
CVCC Chief Operations Officer*



CVCC Main Campus

Catawba Valley Community College

- Over 5,000 Students
- Spread across Multiple Campuses
- Offers over 100 different programs
- Founded in 1958



Student area on Main Campus

e-Launch

“e-Launch allows everything to be all together—its very streamline, very slick, and easy to use.”

-Ken Elliot

e-Launch is a solution developed by Valcom which allows its users to integrate all systems together. In the case of CVCC, they were looking to fold multiple systems together—phones, computers, alert system, access control, etc.—and E-launch allowed them to do so. This unified system allows for greater safety of a campus due to the variety of avenues for notification this system offers.

For more information about the E-launch system visit Valcom’s web-site.



Steps Towards a Solution

Two years later, in 2010, the college began work with Carolina Video Security, installing a campus-wide call system. This allowed the school’s faculty the ability to notify the entire campus at once in the event of an emergency situation.

Close Call

It was two years later, in 2012, when they would need this system when a gunman was spotted on campus. Integrating the call-system with their existing protocol, the campus police issued a lockdown once the threat was realized. They used the loud speakers and call-system to notify all those on campus – inside and outside – of the lockdown and to enact lockdown protocol procedures.

While there were no real flaws and issues in their system, the security officials at the college knew they wanted to eventually do more, building on their current system to further enhance the safety of their campus.

Integrating E-Launch

In 2014, the college took those steps to build on their system, integrating Valcom’s Mass Notification e-launch system. This Valcom Solution combines subsystems in order to create one large, comprehensive Mass-Notification System. The E-launch system combines phones, call-boxes, loudspeakers, text and e-mail, along with visual aids in order to ensure that necessary information is communicated effectively.



Brivo Solutions

Brivo Systems specializes in providing cloud-based access control and video surveillance solutions. On CVCC's campus Brivo's access control solutions were implemented to provide opportunity for emergency lockdown.

Integrating access control solutions alongside a mass notification solution allows the campus means to both notify and secure their campus all at once.

Although, Elliot mentions that this feature has also improved their campus on a day to day basis and allowed for more efficient tracking of faculty and students.

Brivo solutions also allow for vast scalability and flexibility which will aid any educational facility as they grow and change in size.

"Even on a day-to-day basis the new system has allowed for better tracking of people—we have already used it left and right."

-Ken Elliot



View Overlooking CVCC Campus

Building up Security

The e-launch system also allows the user a variety of customization options related to threat level and campus layout, all in an interactive and easy-to-use interface. Stephanie Keller, CVSI's project Engineer explains that you can run this system "with the push of a button," adding to the ease of use for all of Catawba Valley Community College's faculty and staff. With a system this size, on a campus this size, the ability to customize the system is essential. The E-launch allows its user the ability to create customized scenarios that are activated by the click of a mouse, allowing the user to create electronic protocol in the same way they would create physical protocol for emergency situations.

Day-to-Day Convenience

Beyond the features this system offers the CVCC campus community in an emergency system, the access control the system includes has also improved campus life on a day-to-day basis. Prior to their system recently installed, CVCC used traditional lock and key for nearly all of their doors across campus. This added extra time and effort for all faculty and staff both in an emergency situation and in day-to-day activities. With the new e-launch system, many of the campus' doors are now using access control. By using access control, the campus is now able to more easily track daily activity as well as control access to their buildings across campus in an emergency situation.



“In my opinion, there is no way to get any campus 100% safe and secure but with this technology we get closer than anything we else we could do. ”

*-Ken Elliot
CVCC Chief Operations Officer*

Plans for the Future

In the future, Elliot mentions that he would like to expand the system as the CVCC community continues to grow and change. Although for now, Elliot expresses the satisfaction both he and his faculty have had with the system both in emergency situations and the day-to-day activity across their campuses. Elliot agrees that there is no way to get a campus 100% safe, but states that “with this technology we get closer than anything else we could do.”

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services and products

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