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INTELLIGENT SOLUTIONS FOR A SAFER CAMPUS

Budget-Friendly Installation Brings CASE Emergency Communications to High-Traffic College Campus

WHAT THEY NEEDED

All college and university campuses have to take measures to ensure the safety of students, staff, and guests. Many college campuses, however, must think even more broadly to also consider the safety needs of a large commuter student population, on-campus resources that are frequently accessed by the community at large, and location within a given town or city.

This was the case for John A. Logan College (JALC) in southern Illinois. The JALC campus not only serves more than 4,000 active students, it is also a metro bus stop location used by the entire community, and is just off a major highway. Understanding that low-income bus riders without cell phones, as well as stranded motorists from the nearby interstate, had a need for emergency communications, the college's aim was to provide as many emergency assistance hot spots as possible.

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HOW CASE RESPONDED

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As a smaller technical college, the JALC budget was tight for this project. Thankfully, CASE's Blue Light Towers do not require complicated (and expensive) digging or trenching to run power and communications lines.

Instead, the wireless installation allows for more units to be placed for the same cost as fewer units that require hard wiring. To stretch budgets even further, the college inquired about whether or not its students in technical studies could perform the installations as part of their educational curriculum. Again, CASE was able to facilitate a solution by providing detailed installation manuals, which would allow students to complete installation as course work training while further reducing costs for the college. The cost of the project was also partially subsidized by a solar grant fund, which further reduced the total installed cost of the solution.

A small initial grant request allowed for funds to be disbursed quickly — which put 6 CASE Blue Light Towers on campus within a few weeks. Each tower will be equipped with a solar power panel with a 10-day battery back up, a floodlight for location lighting, an electronic faceplate with call button plus speaker and microphone, a faceplate video camera that activates when the call button is pushed, and an optional mass notification speaker system for campus-wide announcements.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR CASE?

The installation earned the <u>praise of local media</u> for its innovative approach to installation, and for the greater cause of public safety. The CASE Blue Light Towers will provide functionality for commuters on the bus as well as those using the highway, should an emergency occur. Discussions are already underway to explore more opportunities to expand installations to other on-campus sites.





www.CASEEmergencySystems.com

Email Phone info@CASEES.com 949.988.7500

> 5 Goddard Irvine, CA 92618

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