Campus security directors face significant challenges today to find the resources necessary to sustain high levels of security and safety across their campus landscapes. Colleges and universities compete with countless other state and local entities for funds to upgrade and improve their security infrastructures. Campus law enforcement also must provide security while preserving the openness, access and freedom of movement that are traditional hallmarks of institutions of higher learning.

Despite budget restrictions, security should remain a top priority for campuses, regardless of size or environment. Successful security programs are built on thorough assessments of current strengths and weaknesses, as well as consideration for future needs. A layered approach to security and safety can provide solutions for every access point on campus. From the mechanical key systems to fully integrated network solutions, this approach can provide the widest range of solutions for any budget. The good news is that everyday actions can get you there.

Some measures may be relatively inexpensive to implement, such as faculty training and the increased visibility of police and security officers in academic buildings. Other solutions should be carefully planned with consideration given to integration of systems as security applications are added over time.

Here are some security actions to initiate today that will help achieve greater control over campus security in the future:

**Access control**

Security technologies in the marketplace today provide access control systems that can be adapted and expanded as campuses grow and security needs change. High-security areas, such as residence halls, laboratories and offices, can be retrofitted with simple access control systems that use programmable, battery-powered locks and keypads.

Card-based systems offer much greater control and flexibility. The cards integrate easily and are simple to update with user profile information. Security departments also can deactivate and replace cards easily if they are lost or stolen.
With a unified approach to access control, campuses are able to enhance their investment in security solutions. Security administrators can create an interface between several systems, including student information, housing administration, and access control, to operate with only one enhanced ID card. Smart cards can be programmed to allow students access to their residence halls, pay for meals at a dining hall or vending machine, use public transit or even pay for tickets to campus sporting activities or concerts.

Wireless solutions are one of the fastest growing alternatives in access control. The systems can be applied to doors, elevators, exit devices, gates and electric strikes. More important, open architecture wireless systems connect to any of today's access control systems. That means users do not have to replace their existing panel, keys or ID credentials. Such systems are an attractive alternative to offline, stand-alone locking systems because they offer a real-time solution that is compatible with all brands of access control panels.

Wireless solutions seamlessly integrate into the access control panel, eliminating wire between the lock and the access control panel and providing a complete solution at each opening. Anywhere a lock is installed a wireless system can be installed. Certain applications lend themselves particularly well to wireless, including older buildings that would be difficult or impossible to hardwire. These systems preserve the integrity of the architectural design.

Wireless locksets work equally well on wood and metal doors, both interior and exterior, as well as glass, monitored and scheduled doors, gates, elevators and portable applications. Wireless solutions do not need line of sight. Signals are able to penetrate cinder block walls, plasterboard walls, brick walls, and many other non-metallic materials for simplified system design and implementation.

Wireless access control is robust. Advanced transmitters and high sensitivity receivers use high frequencies to send the signal throughout an area. This method combined with spread-spectrum technology, which sends the same data over many frequencies simultaneously, makes wireless very reliable.

Mechanical locks
Functional and compliant mechanical access control requires installation of locks, hardware and control devices that allow doors to be barred against unauthorized access to keep intruders out of campus buildings, classrooms and offices.

To maintain a key-based access system requires a functional key management program. Patent-restricted keyways give a security department control of key blanks and cutting equipment. It also prevents unauthorized key duplication by restricting locksmith access to keys and cores without permission.

Learn more about maximizing your security

For more information about security that fits into your budget, please contact a professional security consultant in your area by calling 888.758.9823 or fill out the Contact Us form on our website at allegion.com.