Perimeter security in higher education
Remote control enhances security and convenience for universities

When it comes to securing a K-12 or higher education campus, the goal is the same: to keep students, faculty and assets safe. However, unlike K-12, colleges are by design more open, which can make security more challenging. They're also larger with more buildings, making perimeter security a demanding, manual task for facility personnel.

“The biggest security challenge that I noticed was that most buildings were open even though there were few students on campus. Because of the required circulation between buildings, colleges need to be able to lock down immediately if there is a security incident on campus.”

Higher education campuses are typically widespread with multiple buildings like those described by Koziol. Manually touring every door takes a significant amount of time and exposes the school to potential human errors.

“The idea of nightly lockup, or emergency lockdown, on campus is daunting, particularly if you’ve got dozens or hundreds of buildings being managed by mechanical means,” says Daniel Cannon, Allegion product manager, exits. “Remote lockdown would save time and avoid putting faculty at risk in emergency situations.”

Remote lockdown requires that openings are connected to an electronic access control system. If an event arises, faculty can immediately respond by securing its building perimeter and classroom and office doors that are electronically managed by the system.

“With the property perimeter in higher-ed typically being unsecured, the ability to secure each building perimeter during an active shooter event becomes even more critical,” says Greene. “Remote locking of these building perimeter doors can also help with securing the buildings during normal operation.”

Day-to-day lockup is a huge task, especially on large campuses. When connected to an electronic access control system, lockup can be scheduled automatically at the end of each day or following an event, freeing up time for faculty to focus on other areas. Additionally, this enables remote monitoring at all connected openings. Non-manual verification alerts faculty to which doors are not secured.

Understanding campus security
Jeff Koziol, a higher education security specialist for Allegion, explains, “Many campuses have arenas and big academic buildings, with multiple entrances. In most cases, the campus may only make one or two of those doors accessible with a credential or campus ID card. It’s unlikely that they will make all of the remaining doors active access control openings. The remaining doors typically are just monitored with door status switches, but that doesn’t control those openings. This results in the need for manual dogging (unlock) at the beginning of the day and manual undogging—like mechanical lockup—at the end of the day.”

K-12 schools typically leave perimeter doors locked during school hours. This isn’t feasible for universities. Students, staff and visitors need to move across campus and from one building to another with ease, and their schedules are less regulated. In many cases, the grounds are like a small community. To overcome these challenges, the right solutions need to be in place to ensure that buildings can be properly secured after hours and lockdown can occur in the event of an emergency.

Solution
The Von Duprin® Remote Undogging (RU) and Remote Monitoring (RM) options enhance perimeter security and operational efficiencies. As Koziol pointed out, many doors are not connected to a campus’ electronic access control system and require manual attention. The RU and
RM options are designed to extend the benefits of electronic access control to these openings.

Remote monitoring and the ability to remotely secure doors bring peace of mind to faculty and students. Campus can be secured in a matter of seconds versus minutes. And the risk of human error is greatly reduced. These solutions are ideal for large academic buildings, libraries, arenas and other large buildings on campus where general access is needed. While residence halls remain locked at all times, other buildings on campus are more open to allow students to come and go easily throughout the day. The Von Duprin RU and RM options are an affordable way to extend electronic access control to doors that would otherwise need to be individually toured.

“A primary benefit is knowing that the campus is monitoring doors,” says Koziol. “For example, if a custodian steps away to handle an issue and misses a door or two, nobody would be the wiser. But now you’ve got a solution that can monitor the openings, overriding the risk of human error.”

Cannon adds, “I think now more than ever universities are looking for potential security breaches. They’re looking for propped doors where people can get into authorized areas. Before they might have had to point out unsecured points of entry. Now these can be monitored electronically, notifying them of the openings that are unsecured and in need of attention.”

To learn more about the Von Duprin RU and RM options, visit us.allegion.com. Or contact Allegion at 877-671-7011 or online.