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## COVER STORY

# CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH

Security check-up proves successful for Idesco and Adelphi University

By Monique Merhige

ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 70TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF ADELPHI'S SCHOOL OF NURSING WAS THE FALL 2013 GROUNDBREAKING FOR A NEW BUILDING TO HOUSE THE NEWLY RENAMED "ADELPHI UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF NURSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH." WITH DOORS OPENED DURING THE SUMMER OF 2016, THE NEW LEED CERTIFIED INNOVATIVE NEXUS BUILDING AND WELCOME CENTER ALSO KNOWN AS THE CENTER FOR HEALTH INNOVATION IS A STATE-OF-THE-ART ADDITION TO THE ADELPHI UNIVERSITY CAMPUS IN GARDEN CITY, N.Y. THE L-SHAPED BUILDING HOUSES THE UNIVERSITY'S COLLEGE OF NURSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH, THE OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS, THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS, THE OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT, AND STUDENT AFFAIRS- THE LEARNING CENTER, THE WRITING CENTER AND THE OFFICE OF ACADEMIC SERVICES AND RETENTION.

This massive 90,000 square foot 3-story building includes underground and topside parking for 300 vehicles, adding a level of convenience for students and staff. The building also contains high-tech laboratories and learning spaces, allowing students to gain a first-class education.

This modernly designed building also houses five seminar and conference rooms for classes and students/faculty. On the second floor of the Nexus Building, students will find the nursing instruction space that is used solely by nursing students and includes classrooms and ultramodern simulation labs. There are 10 examination rooms designed for different nursing scenarios including an intensive care room, a delivery room and even a "home care" room set up to look like a person's home. Each exam room has a closed-circuit TV to observe the student's performance.

This innovative addition to the Adelphi University campus will surely provide its students with an optimal level of education, better preparing them for real-life scenarios within the medical field. The entire campus spans 75 acres and currently has nearly 8,000 students from 43 states and 45 foreign coun-



tries enrolled at the University, making it imperative to continue implementing the right high-tech security solutions whenever an expansion takes place.

## COMMITMENT TO SECURITY SPANS DECADES

Adelphi is a world-class, modern university with excellent and highly-relevant undergraduate and graduate programs in College of Arts & Sciences, Derner Institute of Advanced Psychological Studies, Honors College, Robert B. Willumstad School of Business, Ruth S. Ammon School of Education, University College, College of Nursing and Public Health,

and the School of Social Work. With its main campus in Garden City, N.Y., and its centers in Manhattan, Suffolk County and Poughkeepsie; "Adelphi University is no stranger to security and has long been committed to maintaining a comprehensive safety and crime prevention program to help protect all members of the Adelphi community. Adelphi University has long been committed to maintaining a comprehensive safety and crime prevention program for all members of the Adelphi community.

"With the assistance of students, faculty and staff, and through the cooperative efforts of the Garden City community and local law enforce-



ment agencies, this program has contributed to what we believe is an excellent record of safety since its inception in 1896.” said Gene Palma, assistant vice president of Public Safety & Transportation at Adelphi.

As a result, Adelphi University is currently listed as one of the top 50 safest colleges in the United States according to backgroundcheck.org and 13th safest in New York State according to Niche.org. The university has built a solid reputation and position of strength when it comes to safety due to its proactive philosophy and building the right team of people around them that consists of security professionals and electronic security contractors that are true experts in the field.

One particular electronic security contractor—Idesco Corp., a leading New York City security integrator has made quite an impact on the university over the years and has been the trusted security advisor/partner for almost a decade. Adelphi has been working closely with Idesco for the past eight years and has built a solid relationship that has stood the test of time.

From its initial large-scale security project, where the university was looking for an experienced security integrator to handle an IP Video upgrade campus wide; the relationship evolved over the years and has reached new ground with the construction of the Nexus building.

### BUILDING LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP WITH SECURITY INTEGRATOR PROVES BENEFICIAL

The relationship started in 2008 when Idesco provided various ID badge printers and video cameras to the university. In 2009, Robert Hughes, the associate director of Public Safety and Transportation at Adelphi had recommended that Idesco join in the bidding process for the IP video upgrade project at the campus. After winning the bid due to their experience in the education market and seamlessly upgrading the campus to IP video while ensuring that the new video surveillance solution ran on the campus network successfully; Idesco proved to the university’s top administrators that they were the right choice and a valuable member of the Adelphi team for the long-term.

The relationship evolved over the years where Adelphi looked to Idesco for guidance and education on the latest security technology available in the industry. In a world where new security technology is ever changing, Idesco was right by Adelphi’s side bringing the new technology to them.

When the university announced the new Nexus Building and started to break ground in 2013; there was no question on who should handle the implementation of the new CCTV security system. Idesco

once again rose to the occasion and provided more than 50 state-of-the-art IP cameras for the interior and exterior of the new Center of Health Innovation building.

“Idesco has been working with colleges and universities throughout the New York City area for more than seven decades and continues to build long standing relationships that have stood the test of time like Adelphi,” said Andrew Schonzeit, president at Idesco Corp.

Working with Idesco over the years has been an absolute pleasure from a professional and personal standpoint,” said Gene Palma, assistant vice president of Public Safety & Transportation at Adelphi. “Idesco brought the university to IP Cameras and stood by us through the entire process. Their response to new work and most importantly, responding at the speed of light when a problem arises is second to none. The Idesco team has been available to us day and night and even weekends and can always be counted on at all times to do what is right.”

Idesco and Adelphi have proven that collaboration and teamwork pays off in the long haul.

“No matter what challenges we faced during the security installation, we all collaborated together as a team to make things right,” said Michael Troiani, service manager at Idesco. “Adelphi’s security team and their IT department is really top-notch and one of the best groups that we ever worked with.”

As with any security installation, encountering unexpected challenges are part of the process. From the public safety point of view, a huge challenge included ensuring all cabling and installation was coordinated with drawings, general contractors, and subcontractors. There were several changes that occurred and required things that were different from the original plans; but having Idesco there to collaborate with and handle all issues helped keep the project on track.

Another challenge encountered included an issue during the planning stage where a couple of areas throughout the building that needed cameras were missed.

“During the building construction, there was \$600,000 worth of equipment delivered that needed to be protected from theft,” Hughes said. “We were missing a camera at an important entry door and called on Idesco to help save the day. Idesco quickly came to our rescue and installed the camera the same day once again delivering the superior customer service that we have grown to depend on.”

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and security system was the number one priority at the university. Adelphi is a role model to its community and has become a trusted advisor to other Long Island campuses to show how the latest technology can be used to protect college campuses. This new building was no exception to the healthy dose of security that Adelphi continues to inject campus wide. The university was looking to protect every entry point of the New Center of Health Innovation building.

To accomplish this, a combination of fixed, PTZ and license plate recognition IP cameras were installed in the hallways, lobbies, sitting areas, elevators, roof, parking areas (exterior and underground), and exit ramps. The underground parking garage is covered by six 180 degree cameras while the parking deck has two PTZ cameras installed with two units housing 4 fixed and one PTZ camera at both entrances. This provides the university with views of all areas at all times which keeps all entrances covered. The outdoor cameras used were Axis 6000-e IP cameras. Overall, the university has been using a combination of analog and IP cameras and finds that having both systems on campus offers back-up with two types of coverage in case one system goes down. With over 350 cameras on campus, Idesco was able to build on Adelphi's existing IP system and only had to add a storage unit to extend storage time.

A few days after the exterior parking lot cameras were installed, Adelphi was able to assist the police by pulling footage from the exterior PTZ cameras after there was a vehicle accident on South Avenue in front of the new building. In addition, the cameras have been used to capture motor vehicle thefts and prevent larceny and theft of items located in parked cars.

The University Department of Public Safety and Transportation, located on the lower level of Levermore Hall and in the Public Safety Command Center in front of Levermore Hall, provides Public Safety services 24/7. The department consists of an assistant vice president, two associate directors, one captain, three lieutenants (one of which manages the transportation and parking services), five sergeants (one of which is the crime prevention supervisor), and 40 carefully selected and trained male and female officers, many of whom have law enforcement backgrounds. Public Safety Officers provide vehicle, bicycle and foot patrols of the entire campus, parking lots, buildings, and residence halls; protect life and property; in concert with Health Services ensure that those sick or injured receive prompt medical treatment; respond to and investigate reports of crime; enforce traffic regulations, fire safety, and conduct crime-prevention programs and seminars.

The Department of Public Safety and Transportation maintains a close working relationship with the Garden City, Hempstead, Nassau County, Suffolk County, Poughkeepsie and the New York City police departments, all of which provide police services, including criminal investigation and emergency services.

Although Adelphi Public Safety Officers are not peace officers and therefore do not have authority to make arrests as such, they do provide crime-scene services pending the response of the law enforcement

## PROBLEM

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agency concerned. Officers have the authority to issue parking and moving violation summonses on campus, and have the authority to request identification of persons on campus. The University maintains a Memorandum of Understanding with the Garden City Police Department, which has geographical jurisdiction to investigate alleged criminal offenses that occur on the main campus in Garden City. The police department and the University's Department of Public Safety communicate on an almost daily basis discussing types of incidents occurring on or in proximity of the campus.

Furthermore, the department has a close working relationship with members of the New York City Police Department's first precinct covering the Manhattan Center, the Suffolk County Police Department, covering the Suffolk Centers, and the Poughkeepsie Police Department, covering the Hudson Valley Center. Each department is contacted annually or as needed to ascertain whether any Clery crimes occurred that impact reportable crimes. In addition, Public Safety maintains close relationships with other local and federal law enforcement authorities.

"We live in uncertain times. We are vulnerable to natural, accidental, and human caused hazards. In order to decrease the impact of such events, and to ensure that the University can restore normal operations as quickly and as efficiently as possible after an emergency, we have developed an Emergency Operations Plan and have created a university Emergency Command Center. Adelphi's emergency planning is based on planning principles and best practices and will serve as the University's guiding document during incidents affecting Adelphi students, faculty, staff, visitors or facilities," said Christine M. Riordan, Ph.D., and president of Adelphi University.

#### ADELPHI REBRANDS, CONTINUES TO EVOLVE WITH IDESCO BY ITS SIDE

In addition to video surveillance, Adelphi uses ID Card badging solutions that require all staff and students to carry ID badges while on campus. Their access control system is integrated with the university public safety database system allowing access based on privileges permitted; providing an extra layer of security. The university purchased two ID badge printers from Idesco (XID 580IE) that offer lamination in addition to pre-printed ID Cards. Idesco pre-prints the emergency numbers on the back of the ID cards, while Adelphi prints information on the front of the cards in-house that includes the person's name, identification number and school logo. Adelphi has recently rebranded the university's logo and has changed the university colors to Brown and Gold.

From the beginning stages of providing Adelphi with an education on IP Video to helping the university expand the campus; Idesco is right by its side guiding them along the way on the newest security technology available to keep the university on top of their security goals. With no new construction projects on the horizon, future plans for Adelphi include upgrading older buildings with newer security technology and continuing to educate other campuses on how to improve safety and security. Idesco and Adelphi will continue to work together for years to come and be the pillar of the community when it comes to safety. "We look forward to working with Adelphi for the long haul and being there for the university whenever they need us," Schonzeit said. "Working together as one cohesive healthy team is the key to any successful security project and keeping customers educated on the ever changing technology is imperative." Adelphi will continue to evolve over the years and remain the role model for campuses around the nation. 

*Monique Merhige is a freelance writer based in New York City.*

