IDESCO CORP.
SECURITY SYSTEMS INTEGRATION

BARUCH COLLEGE
SYMMETRY MANAGES THOUSANDS AT BARUCH COLLEGE

Baruch College is located in one of New York City's most desirable business neighborhoods, Midtown Manhattan. Close to Wall Street and a large number of global headquarters of large firms and Fortune 500 companies. Baruch offers undergraduate and graduate programs to its 15,500 students through three acclaimed schools: the School of Public Affairs, the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences, and the Zicklin School of Business.

Since the late 90s, Baruch College has used an AMAG Symmetry Security Management System to secure its three campuses. Recently, new construction and expansion forced Baruch to review its security system. Baruch installed Symmetry Professional and soon learned they would need more capacity. A seamless upgrade to Symmetry Enterprise version 6 to manage its 29,000 card holders provided the perfect fit.

The Symmetry Security Management System integrates with the Baruch student database system, Banner. When a new student is entered into the Banner system, the database automatically imports and populates the Symmetry database. Any changes to a student record are also imported directly to Symmetry. This saves a tremendous amount of time as student cards can be printed and distributed immediately without the need to re-key student information. If a student drops out or graduates at the end of the semester, a change to the Banner system will import directly into the Symmetry Security Management System. The student access level is immediately updated to inactive in the Symmetry system.
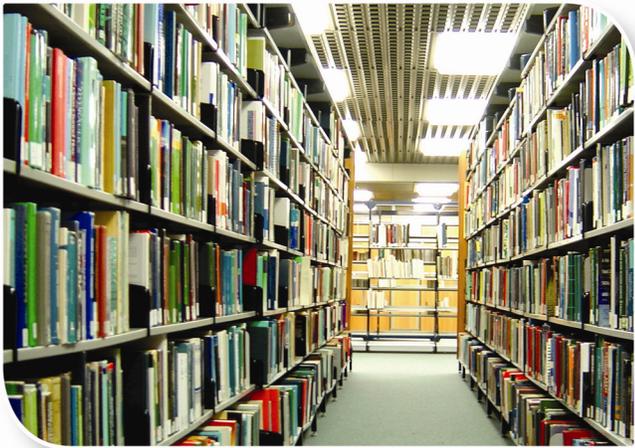
Magstripe readers mounted on turnstiles throughout the three campuses control access to all buildings. Being a city campus, maintaining tight control of students and staff was a challenge. Each student or cardholder swipes their card on the turnstile. When access is granted, the student may pass through the turnstile. Symmetry processes thousands and thousands of card transactions per day while cardholders swipe in and out of every building, including the library, sports complex and computer labs.

"Baruch needed to control the students coming into its buildings," said Idesco Service Manager, Mike Troiani. "When you have 400 students in a lecture hall plus professors, teaching assistants, etc. you need added security."

"Each semester the population changes and Baruch needs to keep track of who is a student and who is not," Troiani said. "Student traffic is unbelievably heavy, but our Symmetry system allows it to flow and is very efficient."

Cardholders use their colorcoded credential as a student or staff ID, and library card. Specific colors are used to identify students, staff, faculty, visitors, continuing education students, Athletic & Recreational Center members, special events and alumni. The color codes alert security guards to what type of student, staff or guest is in a building.

Access levels are defined based on a person's role at the college such as student, staff, faculty, alumni, continuing education,

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visitor, etc. There is even a designated lounge for honor students, which is yet another defined access level.

"Each student is granted an access level based on what type of student they are," said Baruch College Administrator of ID Center/Public Safety, George D. Yang. "For example, Baruch students are allowed access to the open labs, where continuing education students use a different set of labs. Proper access is granted to the appropriate students based on their education level."

A command center is located in each of the five campus buildings. Guards monitor critical video locations and alarms. At each location, a Symmetry client monitors alarm activities and a separate video screen monitors the Vicon video system. Guards patrol the school interior and grounds and investigate alarms.

Why Idesco?
Baruch College chose Idesco Corporation to install and maintain AMAG's Symmetry Security Management System. Idesco Corp. is a leading provider of integrated security systems, including Access Control, CCTV and Digital Video Recording, Photo ID Badging, and ID Card Printers. Headquartered in New York City, Idesco has been in business for over 60 years and provides security solutions to leading organizations in all industries, including government, corporate, real estate, and education.

The end result
"With the thousands of transactions that occur daily, we are thrilled with the number of granted entrances or non-granted entrances," said Yang. "We could have so many complications, but Symmetry works flawlessly. We couldn't be happier."

With the exceptionally low error rate, Baruch College is pleased with the upgrade.

The Future
Baruch is continuously adding panels and readers to existing buildings, and plans to complete the south campus. They are also planning on upgrading the magstripe readers to proximity iClass.

"With hundreds of readers that are under constant operation all the time, the Symmetry Security Management System keeps chugging along with very little, if any, maintenance needed," said Troiani.

Product List
Symmetry Enterprise Unrestricted

460 Symmetry 635 Mullion Magstripe readers

150 panels that include multiNODE 2, multiNODE 2000, an multiNODE 2100

Vicon video management system

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