



# Case Study

## Tarrant County College

### Landscape

Tarrant County College is the sixth largest college or university in Texas. Founded in 1965, it has expanded from a single campus to an institution that soon will encompass six facilities serving more than 50,000 students in the Fort Worth area. With Tarrant's growth outpacing its existing key system, the college knew it needed an entirely new system to handle its 10,000+ doors.

In addition to its primary goal of providing personal security for its students, staff and visitors, the college needs to secure computer laboratories and other technical facilities that often contain high-value items. For example, the nursing school includes state-of-the-art operating rooms and has \$200,000 in practice mannequins. Likewise, chemistry labs need to be secured when not in use to prevent potential misuse or abuse.

### Desired outcome

Tarrant had three specific goals in mind to enhance its security on all campuses:

- Upgrade and expand its key system
- Develop an efficient way to manage and track keys and users
- Upgrade its access control to improve security and prepare for future technology

To ensure that solutions meet Tarrant's high standards, the university tests all products thoroughly before deploying and standardizing throughout the campuses. Therefore, they also wanted a partner that would help them thoroughly evaluate the available hardware solutions.

Tarrant worked with Allegion to increase security on campus by choosing the Schlage Everest Primus XP key system and aptiQ multi-technology readers.

## Solutions

### Updated key system

Tarrant worked with Allegion to choose the Schlage® Everest Primus XP key system, a large format interchangeable core system that is patent-protected until 2024. By choosing a patent-protected keyway, the college eliminates the risk of unauthorized duplication since key blanks only can be obtained from the manufacturer—and only when authorized by the college.

### Key management system

Although electrified locks and card readers are used throughout Tarrant's campuses, mechanical keys still play an important role in the access control plan. They are used extensively on non-critical interior doors as well as for an override of the electrified locks when necessary. To provide physical control of the keys used by maintenance staff, the college uses a cabinet that sends management an e-mail alert if a key is not returned when due.

According to Electronic Access Control Systems Manager Bob McCleary, the key system is structured so the police department needs only two keys to access any of the college's buildings. One handles all the northern campuses while the other controls the southern campuses. Although access to most of the buildings normally is controlled by card access, the electrified locks can also be opened by an override key. In the event of a lockdown, for example, this ensures that the police can always enter the building.

### Electrified access control

The college also chose the Schlage L9000 Series electrified mortise locks and Von Duprin® 99 Series QEL electrified exit devices to secure all access-controlled doors. Additionally, their 1,400 card readers that control the electrified locks are being upgraded and replaced with aptiQ™ multi-technology card readers. All new installations are using these readers as well.

The aptiQ readers are capable of interfacing with a magnetic stripe, proximity, smart card and most other credentials, providing flexibility for future changes or upgrades. The readers utilize an open architecture platform designed to work with industry standards and common access control systems. In addition, their single-gang styling and easy-to-connect wiring harness simplify installation.

To monitor the system, McCleary receives online data in his office that shows the status of every card reader. "You can see when they are online and locked or unlocked, the name of the door and whether it is open or closed," McCleary explains.

Doors automatically unlock at a specified time for classes but can be locked remotely in an emergency. Many of the perimeter entries controlled by card readers and electrified locks also incorporate a camera that lets a staff member verify a visitor's identity before unlocking remotely. In the event of a threat, this allows the staff to determine if a perpetrator is inside or outside of a building and quickly decide which doors need to be locked down.

The college's first step into wireless access control will be when they remodel a newly acquired building. By using Schlage AD Series wireless electronic locks, they will be able to add access control more easily to doors where wiring isn't currently installed.



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The 99 Series exit devices are preferred by Tarrant because they have a four-bolt mounting that provides a higher level of strength and security.

### Other solutions

Other Allegion hardware and security solutions included:

- **Von Duprin XP99 Series exit devices with a latchbolt design for greater strength and durability.** McCleary says he prefers the 99 Series exit devices because they have a four-bolt mounting that provides a higher level of strength and security. Many of the exit devices incorporate special features selected to meet Tarrant's specifications. For instance, all new exit device installations and replacements include the Von Duprin QEL (quiet exit latch) option. Quiet operation is especially important in areas such as auditoriums, classrooms and libraries, where the noise of a conventional latch could be disturbing. Many applications also call for a special dogging option, which allows the exit devices to be dogged by key as well as electronically in the event of power failure or other situation.
- **Von Duprin keyed removable mullions.** These are often used on double doors where it may be necessary to move large objects, such as a piano, in and out of a building or room.
- **LCN® 4040XP door closers, which are LCN's most durable heavy duty closers specifically designed for the most demanding, high use and abuse applications.** The proven strength and reliability of LCN door closers means doors will close and latch properly, ensuring the security of the opening is intact.
- **Ives® hinges to fit every type of door configuration.**

### Result

Electrified locking in combination with a high-security key system provides the security the college needs to protect both people and property. Whether upgrading its key system or implementing electrified or wireless locks, the college is committed to utilizing the best solutions to accomplish their goals.

"We try to make the students and faculty feel more secure and confident that we have control of the situation, whatever it is," McCleary emphasizes.

By testing prospective solutions in high-traffic areas, the products that are ultimately included in the specs are proven to deliver the intended results. Comprehensive specifications ensure that the best solutions are applied consistently throughout the college system.

"We have been told by our architects that ours are one of the best specs ever written," McCleary adds.



Tarrant County College District, a comprehensive two-year institution established in 1965, is dedicated to providing quality education that exceeds the expectations of the people of Tarrant County. More than 50,000 students are enrolled in TCC's associate degree and technical programs, making it the sixth largest among Texas colleges and universities.

### About Allegion

Allegion (NYSE: ALLE) creates peace of mind by pioneering safety and security. As a \$2 billion provider of security solutions for homes and businesses, Allegion employs more than 8,000 people and sells products in more than 120 countries across the world. Allegion comprises more than 25 global brands, including strategic brands CISA®, Interflex®, LCN®, Schlage® and Von Duprin®. For more, visit [www.allegion.com](http://www.allegion.com).

