



**OPEN OPTIONS®**  
ACCESS TECHNOLOGY



## Harding University

### CUSTOMER

Harding University is a private, Christian, residential, coeducational university located in Searcy, Arkansas that covers 10 undergraduate degrees in more than 90 academic majors, 14 pre-professional programs, and 10 graduate and professional degrees in its colleges of Arts and Humanities, Bible and Religion, Business Administration, Communication, Education, Nursing, Pharmacy and Sciences. The university's 45 building, 275 acre campus currently stands 248 full-time faculty members and educates almost 7,000 students.

### CHALLENGES

Harding University came across a major security dilemma when the university's access control software simply wasn't working or able to import their personnel database. In addition to the system not functioning, the software proved difficult for administrators to operate, which complicated campus safety even further. Harding found that their main security issues were not being taken care of with the previous system. It could not enforce the strict dorm curfews properly or provide campus shutdown in case of an emergency.

### SOLUTION

In 2008 Access Control Integration, Inc. presented Harding University with an optimal solution for their campus-wide security problem. Since the previous access control system ran on Mercury Security hardware, switching to DNA Fusion would provide a cost-effective, yet functional system for Harding. The proposed system also included OpenDX Personnel Data Exchange Software to successfully import the university's database and Milestone's XProtect IP Video Management Software to provide an integrated interface to the campus' surveillance system. Harding accepted the proposal and in July 2008 Access Control Integration began installing the Open Options system and soon the conversion was complete. To ensure maximum efficiency, Harding University system administrators attended end user training with Open Options where classroom and one-on-one discussions were available. The new system is currently installed in three dorms, one administration building, one gym, and two academic buildings. Harding plans to continue expanding the system until it is installed throughout the entire campus and as the university grows.

## FAST FACTS

### Customer

Harding University

### Technology Partners

Open Options Access Control

Mercury Security

### Industry

Higher Education

### Geography

Searcy, Arkansas