



# PORTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE INTEGRATING WITH EXISTING SYSTEMS TO PROVIDE A SCALABLE SOLUTION

Portland Community College (PCC) in Portland, Oregon is the largest institution of higher learning in the state. It consists of three comprehensive campuses and five small campuses or centers that offer numerous education programs. Whether students are in a traditional college program, continuing education program or just want to take an enrichment class, PCC provides these eight locations throughout the Portland area to serve students in a wide variety of studies.

To help manage their more than 83,000 student population, PCC issued a request for proposal for an ID badge system for its students. The ID badge system needed to meet immediate database requirements as well as grow with PCC as they expanded their security needs to include an access control and video system.

PCC chose Entrance Controls as their integrator to install AMAG Technology's Symmetry Security Management System. The system interfaces to PCC's Banner Student Information System that was already in place. PCC uses the Banner System to manage all student records including: applications and admission, student course registration, student accounts receivable and scheduling. Entrance Controls Senior Applications Engineer, Craig Ehrich, arranged for Hawkeye Technologies, a third party software developer, to work closely with Susan Gillette, the Banner System administrator for PCC, to develop an

interface between the Symmetry Security Management System and Banner Student Information System. Symmetry retrieves registered student information from Banner and populates the card holder database as students register. Once a student was registered, they could go to any badging client, have their card holder record called up by searching for the student number or name, have their picture taken and ID card produced.

A Symmetry badging client sits at four campuses. In addition they wanted three portable badging clients that could be moved to any area for supplemental badge production. Four desktop computers with printers and cameras were supplied for the admissions office at each campus and three laptop computers with printers and cameras were supplied for the portable systems.

"During anticipated times of heavy enrollment, a portable badging client is taken and set up at the admissions office to help with badge production," said Entrance Controls Senior Applications Engineer, Craig Ehrich. "Approximately 40,000 students were issued ID cards in the first semester." Due to the high volume of students expected for the initial badging session, Entrance Controls helped staff the badging locations providing additional support and training to PCC staff. Each student's number is printed as a barcode on the ID card. The barcode can be read by the existing library system so students can use their

ID card for checking out books and reference materials. To be compatible with the existing library records system, the barcode required special formatting to be read by the scanners at the library checkout. The special formatting provided by the Hawkeye Technologies Banner Interface placed the student number in the Employee Reference field for printing using the appropriate barcode font and bar code format.

As the system grows, Symmetry card readers will be installed throughout the campus to provide access control via the Symmetry Security Management System.

The reader's link to Symmetry multiNODE 2100 Controllers that are connected through the college network to a server located in the college data center. "We have installed card readers to control access to Campus Safety offices, the science and lab areas and are in process of installing card readers in three other buildings at the Rock Creek campus," said Ehrich. "We have also just been given a contract to install card readers and cameras for the new Whipple Creek facility." In most areas offline keypads are being replaced with Symmetry proximity readers.

PCC staffs a 24 hour campus safety office where a Symmetry client is installed for security staff to monitor events and alarms. The campus safety office is responsible for administering the access control portion of the system.

A considerable amount of implementation planning between the PCC IT department, Banner Administration, Admissions staff and Entrance Controls went into this project. According to the Dean of Enrollment Services, Veronica Garcia, "The result of this planning led to a smooth transition with no surprises." The only challenge was the dispersed locations of the various college campuses. The IT department was extremely helpful in insuring the network was ready at each of the locations.

"Once installed and the interface to the Banner system configured, the badging process was simple for the college staff to operate," said Ehrich. "Since all card holder information was already in the Symmetry database, all that was required was to call up the card holder record, take a picture of the student and print the card. Since no data entry is required during badge production, the process moves along quite quickly."

The system, first introduced as a student ID system, is expanding and, starting in the 2009 school year, will be extended to include faculty and staff ID cards allowing for full integration with the expanding Symmetry Access Control System. "The Banner system also includes facility and staff records so the process of issuing the faculty and staff badges will be automated as well," said Ehrich.



### Why Entrance Controls

Entrance Controls was established in Seattle, Washington in 1964, and has evolved from a core competency in access control to include: ID Management, CCTV, Intrusion Detection with Monitoring, Digital and Network Video Recording, IP Video, Gates and Parking with Revenue Control, Intercoms, Fiber, and other low voltage security solutions.

PCC is continuously adding card readers to all its campuses, and there are plans for installing cameras that incorporate their existing digital video recorders. "Symmetry provides an excellent all around security solution for PCC and can grow as PCC expands its security needs," said Ken Goodwin, Director of Public Safety. "We are extremely pleased with how the system integrates with our Banner system, and look forward to expanding the security portion in the year to come."



**AMAG Technology**

sales@amag.com

www.amag.com