

## University safety in suburban setting with Axis.

University of Wisconsin-Parkside sees positive response campus-wide to increased safety measures with Axis network cameras.



**Organization:**  
University of Wisconsin-Parkside

**Location:**  
Somers, Wisconsin, USA

**Industry segment:**  
Education

**Application:**  
Safety and security

**Axis partner:**  
Milestone Systems

### Mission

Sitting at the midpoint between the metropolitan areas of Chicago and Milwaukee, the suburban University of Wisconsin-Parkside campus is patrolled by a fully certified police department requiring video surveillance in areas where personnel cannot always be on site. An analog system was not cutting it both in functionality and picture clarity, as officers sought a solution that could give them more answers.

### Solution

Working with an Axis representative, UW-Parkside Chief of Police and Public Safety Jim Heller selected a variety of Axis network cameras to cover many open areas on campus. Utilizing both fixed and PTZ models, the department also deployed four image sensors on one of its patrol units to keep watch over the actions of that vehicle when it was on the road.

### Result

The response to the cameras has been extremely positive, as the demand from other departments to add coverage to their spaces has been constant. The police department has added cameras each year to new areas, giving academic and operational departments access to those feeds and thereby providing a more secure environment for students, faculty, staff and campus visitors.

**“Initially, there were some reservations about cameras. Then it just morphed where more areas of campus were interested in the added security cameras provide.”**

**Jim Heller, Chief of Police and Public Safety, University of Wisconsin-Parkside.**

### Small town, big operation

Situated less than three miles from the shores of Lake Michigan in southeast Wisconsin, the University of Wisconsin-Parkside plays host to nearly 5,000 students, faculty and staff throughout each school year. The 700-acre suburban campus sits in the Village of Somers and faces the the same security challenges as other college and university campuses across the country.

Considering the amount of acreage and county roads that border the campus, the police department needs to cover a widespread area, being constantly aware of who's on campus and quickly responding to any potential incidents.

### Cameras go mobile

With a campus made safer by cameras in key areas, the police department has made initial efforts to equip their four patrol units with camera feeds as well. Their first mobile unit, consisting of four sensors fed through an AXIS F44 Main Unit, is wired through a new four-door, full-size Dodge Ram truck.

Two sensors point forward from the front windshield, with one maintaining a tight focus for basic traffic stops and the other giving a wider view for a broader perspective. A third sensor oversees the rear seats to monitor passengers with a final sensor shooting out of the rear bumper to view behind the vehicle.

### Graduating to IP

Overhauling an antiquated analog system, Parkside moved to IP video and has since added about 75 cameras over the five years since switching to the new technology. The initial push was to update older analog cameras around the police department in addition to adding new video coverage to some of the parking areas.

Coverage in the parking areas has been beneficial. In one instance, UW-Parkside police were able to identify an individual involved in a complaint based, in part, on being able to see the license plate on recorded video. "All she knew was the color of the car," reminisced Chief Heller. "Without that camera and no other eye witnesses, there was really nowhere to go with the complaint. But we were able to look and spot the car and capture the license plate. We would have been nowhere without the camera, and we were able to eventually charge the individual."

### Growing by demand

The growth of video surveillance at Parkside has largely come due to campus-wide requests. After the parking program, also overseen by Chief Heller, bought the initial server, other departments began to request cameras. First the library, then art galleries, and eventually academic buildings, the Sports & Activity Center and the cashier's office.

The cameras provided results and further efficiency in each deployment site. The art galleries were able to set up a single host with monitors to watch the other spaces rather than having a host present in each gallery. A window near the entrance to the Sports & Activity Center was vandalized; when staff played back the video, they easily identified the person responsible for the damage.

Plans to expand in residence hall common areas and more academic facilities are being considered as the cameras, driven by Milestone XProtect® Corporate video management software, have stayed functional and beneficial since day one. "They've held up," noted Chief Heller. "We haven't had any issues. We've been really pleased with how they have added to the security of our campus."

