



#### CASE STUDY

## Lake Forest College enhances the campus experience with state-of-the-art security

[siemens.com/lfc](https://www.siemens.com/lfc)

For generations, Lake Forest College has offered students something rare. A historic liberal arts campus tucked within a quiet suburban community, just a short train ride from downtown Chicago. A place where intimate class sizes, tree-lined paths, and century-old buildings create a setting that feels both timeless and personal.

But today's students expect more than beauty and tradition. They expect a campus experience that matches the world they live in: open, connected, modern, and safe.

#### By the numbers

- ~2,000 undergraduate students
- 13:1 faculty-to-student ratio
- 107 acres
- 29 buildings

# SIEMENS



The college is one of the premier higher education institutions in the country, and we're able to now talk to students and their families about what a safe and secure environment that they will be living, working, and studying."

**Michael Sosulski**  
President  
Lake Forest College



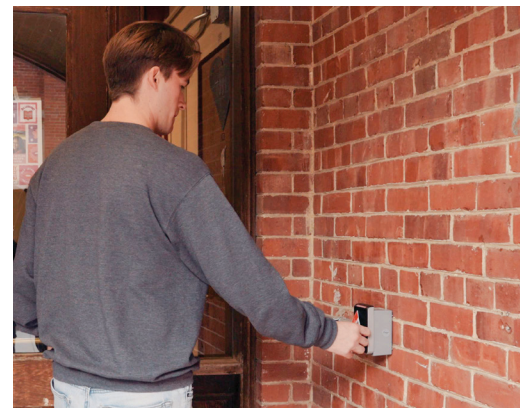
Continuing to meet students' high expectations has been a central priority for Lake Forest College, leading to a recent campus-wide initiative to modernize its physical security system and elevate the everyday experience of students, faculty, and staff.

"We want our students thinking about academics, their co-curriculars, and their relationships," says Marisue Lacher, Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees. "Nothing is more important than the security of our students, faculty, and staff." And while security has not been a particular issue for this campus, Lacher notes that leadership wants to stay ahead of technology modernizations because, as she puts it, "Families want to know that their child is safe when they're off to college; this is their second home."

### **Community-wide commitment to creating a safer, smarter campus**

The decision to modernize campus security was not isolated to any single department.

It became a coordinated effort across the entire College. Current Student Government President Liam Thumser credits Lake Forest College administration for collaborating with the student population to modernize and augment the campus' security technologies. In fact, he notes that along with the Board and donors, the students felt so strongly about the importance of this initiative that they voted to fund a portion of this security modernization project with discretionary funds.



## Siemens helps Lake Forest College modernize security infrastructure for the long-term

Lake Forest College and Siemens have partnered on campus infrastructure projects for more than 60 years, and this most recent modernization project drew on that shared commitment. For a campus with historic buildings, varied architecture, and a deeply rooted identity, this partnership mattered. Modern systems had to blend seamlessly into a setting that holds both history and future ambition.



The biggest concern in higher ed today is the balance between openness and security. Colleges thrive on collaborations and data sharing, yet ensuring our infrastructure evolves without compromising security is both our challenge and our mission.”

### Ravi Agarwal

Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer  
Lake Forest College



With a comprehensive understanding of the college’s goals and insights from the Board, key stakeholders, and students themselves, the project scope of work encompassed the following:

- Replace and upgrade access control and video surveillance technologies to expand coverage across campus buildings and introduce new capabilities that allow public safety teams to respond more quickly and effectively
  - o Access control upgrades provide better security, greater reliability, better building management, and new possibilities for after-hours academic access or study space use
  - o Integration of high resolution camera technology improves situational awareness and incident response for campus security teams
- Deploy a new Safe Forester mobile app that gives students, faculty and staff direct access to real-time alerts, personal escorts, and communication tools that enhance their sense of safety on campus



**100+**  
access control points



**>100**  
high resolution cameras



**24/7/365**  
response coverage

The result is a unified, intelligent security environment designed around the way students live and learn and how faculty teaches and performs research on campus. Through close coordination between Siemens engineers, college staff, and contractors, Agarwal notes that the entire modernization was completed smoothly and on schedule and was accomplished within a 3-month window — with no change orders.

He goes on to say that “Cybersecurity and data protection were top priorities from day one. We wanted to ensure that every connected device, every access point, every system tied to this project aligned with our enterprise security standards. Siemens systems integrate seamlessly with our single sign-on and network segmentation, and provide secure authentication and encrypted communications across the entire infrastructure.”



### **Partnerships strengthen learning and campus communities**

For students, the impact is immediate. They experience a campus where movement feels easier, late-night walks feel more supported, and academic and residential dorm spaces are more accessible and responsive to their needs.

“The best part is that students will use these tools in different ways,” Thumser notes. “It’s a great way to feel safer on this campus at any time of the day or night.”

Faculty and staff share that confidence. Public safety teams now have better visibility into what is happening across the campus, and IT gains platforms that align with the College’s cybersecurity standards and integrate securely into the College’s broader digital infrastructure.

“You want to create the best possible environment for your students to learn, your faculty to teach, and your staff to carry out the important work they do. The very bedrock of that is the sense of safety and security – and none of that can happen unless you have outstanding partnerships with organizations like Siemens, who can help you with the technology that makes it all possible,” says Sosulski.

Lacher concurs, adding: “We chose Siemens, and they have been an incredible partner right from the beginning to help us plan, implement, and get this project done on budget and on time.”

## Lake Forest College is ready for the future

With its investment in modern security technologies and its long-standing partnership with Siemens, Lake Forest College has strengthened the core of what makes its campus thrive: safety, community, and the freedom for students to focus on becoming who they want to be while feeling safe at home.

In short, the College has honored its history while preparing for its future. Looking ahead, the College plans to expand its technology platform to include Building X Security Manager, which will unify security data and enable integration with other campus building systems, including building automation, fire, and energy. In the end, aggregating the data in this way will provide greater transparency for facilities teams and students alike for broader insights into campus operations and efficiency

"We want to evolve as a digitally empowered liberal arts institution," Agarwal says.

"Technology enhances student experience, informs decision making, and strengthens our sense of community, and so we will continue to advance our analytics and cybersecurity capabilities. But most importantly, we want to keep technology human-centered and focused on our people."



### Legal Manufacturer

Siemens Industry, Inc.  
950 Deerfield Parkway  
Buffalo Grove, Illinois 60089-4513  
United States of America

Telephone: +1 (847) 215-1000  
siemens.com/lfc

© 01.2026, Siemens Industry, Inc.

This document contains a general description of available technical options only, and its effectiveness will be subject to specific variables including field conditions and project parameters. Siemens does not make representations, warranties, or assurances as to the accuracy or completeness of the content contained herein. Siemens reserves the right to modify the technology and product specifications in its sole discretion without advance notice.

# SIEMENS