

# NORTHWESTERN GRADUATES WITH HONORS IN SECURITY

BY KATHLEEN RHODES, MARKETING  
COMMUNICATIONS WRITER

**S**tudents weigh a number of factors when choosing a university, including its size, location, cost and academic record. In recent years yet another consideration has come into play. “Parents and students are now looking at crime on campus as part of their decision in attending a university,” says Merrill Silverman, Director Northwestern University Security Systems. “We have increased our security dramatically, not only in personnel, but also in terms of the way we use technology to assist police.”

In 2004, Northwestern installed an Endura IP Video Security System. Because Endura is fully distributed, it was an ideal solution for monitoring the sprawling university. Northwestern’s primary campus is in Evanston, Illinois, but the school also has a second campus in Chicago that is home to Northwestern’s famed law and medical schools. The Evanston campus encompasses approximately 240 acres and has about 8,000 students, while the Chicago campus is spread across six blocks in the heart of downtown.

When Northwestern first approached Pelco, they were searching for a solution that worked for both campuses, allowed for unlimited expansion, and leveraged existing network infrastructure. “We also wanted

a company that had a reputation and a foothold in the market,” Silverman explains. “We wanted a video security manufacturer that we could count on to be here for us and Pelco fit that need.”

According to Pelco Senior Marketing Manager Rob Morello, “When working with Northwestern our objective was to understand their business problems so that we could design a system that would fit their unique needs.” Morello says Northwestern needed a scalable solution that would deliver first class performance today, while allowing for easy expansion in the future. “Their expectation of image quality was very high, their expectation of recording frame rate was very high and their expectation of growth was very high.”

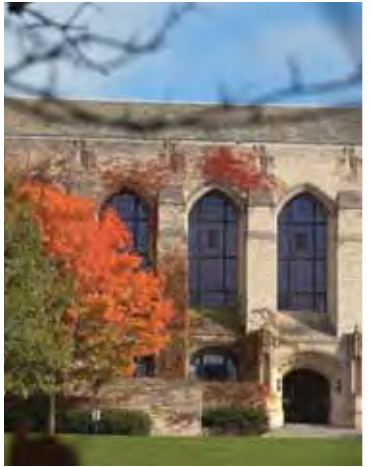
Northwestern was also looking to integrate several separate video security systems installed by various departments. While these systems were useful in monitoring individual departments, in many cases University police did not have the ability to retrieve the video. “Endura has allowed us to bring these systems all under one roof,” says Silverman. “We can now take any camera and put it on our network, allowing us to record video for that department or use it for our purposes.”

Because Endura is a fully distributed system that utilizes an Ethernet network, Northwestern’s security team worked closely with the university’s Information Technology engineers throughout the process. Northwestern’s IT engineers helped select Endura and design the system. They also joined Northwestern’s security team when they attended Endura certification

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FOR A VIDEO PROFILE OF THE ENDURA  
INSTALLATION AT NORTHWESTERN  
UNIVERSITY please visit [http://www.pelco.com/  
company/videos/](http://www.pelco.com/company/videos/).

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**PRODUCTS FEATURED ON CAMPUS** Pelco network cameras, including Camclosure IP work with the Endura video system. Additional components include Spectra IV, Spectra Mini and plasma monitors.

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and video security courses at the Pelco Global Training Institute (PGTI). Silverman says the training was imperative for both groups. “The IT team was interested in how the system worked, while the police were focused on learning how to view a camera, look at recorded video and use alarms.”

The initial Endura system at Northwestern was comprised of fewer than 30 cameras, one Network Video Recorder (NVR), a system manager, one workstation and a couple of Video Console Displays (VCDs). But as Silverman came to understand Endura’s endless adaptability, the system expanded quickly. Today Northwestern has approximately 130 cameras, seven NVRs, five VCDs, and several Pelco plasma monitors. “Endura has worked flawlessly for us,” Silverman explains.

“The fact that we make use of the University’s backbone and IT infrastructure has pretty much allowed us to put cameras or a series of monitors anywhere,” says Silverman. “The Endura product allows us to continually expand, continually look at new products that become available and insert them as needed,” Silverman says. “That’s a huge benefit for us, and a cost savings as well.” Today the system is used to secure buildings at both the Evanston and Chicago campuses, residential halls, and the football stadium. “As new buildings are constructed, Endura is flexible enough for us to pretty much put a camera anywhere it is needed. That’s a huge benefit.”

In addition to Endura, Northwestern has also chosen Pelco to provide their imaging and display solutions. “We utilize essentially

the entire Pelco product line from Spectra IV, to Spectra Mini, to Camclosure IP. Pretty much everything Pelco has to offer, we try to include.” Silverman is particularly impressed with the performance of Pelco Network Cameras. “The fact that Pelco IP cameras are Endura Enabled allows us to put them right onto the network and power them over our Ethernet switches, which saves on labor cost. It’s a great fit for us.”

Silverman is specifically planning to integrate Endura Mapping software, giving his department the ability to display the physical location of cameras, alarms and other Endura devices throughout their facilities. “We’re excited about the new developments and look forward to Pelco’s dedication to create new products that fit well within the University environment,” he says. Northwestern is also an ideal environment for new Endura Wireless encoders and transmitters, and Endura Intelligent Video with Video Analytics will enable the system to identify irregular behavior and notify operators of potential situations. According to Morello, “Intelligent Video brings a whole new perspective of managing an enterprise class operation like Northwestern.”

Pelco has worked closely with Northwestern in the five years since the Endura system was first installed. “The beauty of Pelco’s customer support is the fact that we can deal directly with system engineers and get product support anytime we need it, day or night. That, as far as we are concerned, is key to our success,” says Silverman.

