

their staff can work in conjunction with campus police and know how to create a strategy for the best possible security solution.

Contracting Considerations for Multi-campus Locations

A major issue for colleges and universities is finding a security provider who has experience in protecting many different kinds of off-campus facilities. A downtown location for a public affairs program is likely to take place in an office setting. Research facilities may present challenges similar to manufacturing facilities. Universities are increasingly investing in mixed use properties so the challenges of retail and mall security must be understood. Campuses are increasingly turning to private developers to build and manage campus residence halls – and the pedigree needed to protect young adult living spaces, especially during weekend and overnight hours create a whole set of different challenges requiring knowledge of campus and national regulatory environments.

A qualified security officer can be the eyes and ears for campus police on their posts at residence halls, academic buildings and elsewhere. On college campuses, the majority of problems happen on weekends, and after 11 p.m. and before 3 a.m. With off-site commuter and continuing education colleges, students need special security

fellow students. Jeanne's parents were instrumental in championing the Clery Act, the Federal law that requires colleges and universities to disclose information about campus crime and security policies.

The Clery Act requires that certain information about a campus' safety program and major crime statistics are reported annually. The multi-campus institution must maintain daily crime logs and provide these reports for each campus separately. Ensuring that the Clery regulations are understood and executed is a challenge that an experienced security provider can help overcome.

Background Checks

One of the first questions to arise when a crime is committed is “how did the perpetrator get the opportunity to get access to the campus?” The corollary questions revolve around an individual's background record. Certainly prudence demands that if the college or university contracts with a security services company that the contract security firm has the ability to engage in comprehensive background screening for employment history and criminal records, and drug tests.

New security companies and consultants are popping up everywhere, many with no real world experience or expertise. Administrators charged with hiring security contractors need to know not only what their current campus safety and security employees are doing to stay current with best practices but also what their potential contract security firm's investment is specific to the issues encountered on a college campus (Clery Act, FERPA, alcohol abuse, etc.). Does the security company support higher education association thought leadership and do they have industry advisors who can anticipate and adjust security programs based on trends with the ability to leverage vendor relationships?

Security Training

Does the college's contract security firm have a commitment to continual training? Parents and students should expect that campus security professionals and any firm engaged for campus security programs are committed to enhancing the technical skills and industry knowledge through comprehensive training programs