

Case Study: San Joaquin Community Colleges

San Joaquin Community Colleges, a network of campuses in California's Central Valley, faced growing security concerns, especially related to parking lot safety and students' perception of security on campus. However, with limited budgets, the colleges needed to prioritize their security investments strategically. We conducted a comprehensive security assessment across the San Joaquin campuses. This included analyzing crime data, evaluating existing security systems and procedures, and gathering input from students, faculty and staff about their top safety concerns. The assessment revealed several key gaps:

- Inadequate lighting and surveillance in parking lots and garages
- Lack of visible security presence, especially at night
- Slow response times to incidents due to outdated alert systems
- Low awareness among students of available safety resources

Based on these findings, Spade Security developed a phased, 3-year plan to overhaul San Joaquin's security infrastructure and protocols cost-effectively:

Phase 1:

- Upgraded parking lot lighting to brighter, energy-efficient LEDs
- Installed conspicuous security cameras at parking entrances/exits and high-traffic areas
- Implemented a mobile alert system for students to quickly contact campus police
- Launched a "See Something, Say Something" educational campaign

Phase 2:

- Hired additional campus security guards to patrol parking lots and buildings in the evenings
- Improved signage with clear emergency procedures and resource information
- Expanded night-time shuttle services to transport students safely to parking areas

Phase 3:

- Integrated smart surveillance analytics to proactively detect threats
- Modernized the central command center to coordinate seamless incident response across campuses
- Continued security awareness programs and self-defense training for students

By focusing on the most critical vulnerabilities and taking a multi-year, staged approach, Spade Security helped San Joaquin Community Colleges measurably improve student safety perceptions and outcomes on a limited budget. The customized plan enabled the colleges to make immediate high-impact upgrades, while sustainably investing in longer-term security enhancements over time as resources

allowed. Through this partnership, San Joaquin demonstrated its commitment to campus safety and ability to respond nimbly to evolving security needs.