

CAMPUS TELECOM**August/September 2007 6 Telecom Reseller**

Jim Clark, Assistant Director for Networking and Telecommunications Services at Eastern Iowa Community College, says installing an IP intercom and paging system on the Scott campus of 5,000 was easy. The college found a solution that simply required powering the system and plugging it in.

He installed the original network ten years ago. When it was time to rethink the emergency communications systems in 2005, they found themselves with a new PBX office phone system which, if extended to classrooms and shop areas, would be cost-prohibitive. Clark also looked at a panic-button system used at nurse call stations as a possible solution. But ultimately he decided that if they were going to install a communications system it should include 2-way instant audio communication. That's when they found Digital Acoustics. "We already had the network. All we had to do was plug it in."

They installed 110 intercoms and paging horns throughout the campus in February 2005. Says Clark, "We now have the communications to get back to someone like emergency tech support without a blue box. It's very handy, the faculty love it, and with any technical problem they just push a button and a PC, AV or multimedia person responds in minutes, not hours."

With 100 more intercoms to be installed on the Scott campus, EICC is assessing the system for their campuses in Clinton and Muscatine.

Clark says, "The Security Committee was apprehensive at first. All they saw was a box with a couple of red lights. We had a tornado drill last week a block away and the solution allowed us to pre-record and broadcast a message across campus. If you've got Ethernet you've also got an intercom."

EICC communications