Overview

Based in Gainesville, Florida, Santa Fe College is one of the premier public colleges in the United States. Founded in 1965, the college offers a variety of educational options including associate and bachelor's degrees, as well as technical certificates and continuing education enrichment programs. With more than 24,000 degree-seeking students from the United States and 54 other countries, Santa Fe College is proud to be one of the top educational institutions in the state of Florida.

Challenge

Being spread across seven different campuses throughout the state of Florida, it was clear that the school needed a smarter, more efficient way to populate these campuses with high quality instructors. Instead of hiring specialists at each campus or requiring professors to travel among campuses to teach classes across the network, administrators decided to look for a cost-effective and reliable video conferencing solution to bring instructors and students together virtually.

Solution at a glance

- Industry: Education
- Employees: 2,500
- Customer Since: 2013
- Campuses: 7
- Conference Room Systems: 48
- Students Served: 24,000+

Why Lifesize

- Hardware and software together
- Secure and reliable
- Easy to use
- Cost-efficient
- Streaming and recorded training sessions
- Connect anywhere, on any device
- Superior quality for distance learning
The college’s first video conferencing solution couldn’t support the school and collapsed under poor bandwidth conditions.

“The video quality was so poor that the technology wasn’t serving its purpose and the investment was wasted. We knew it was time to move to a higher quality video conferencing solution.”

— Fred Evans, ITS Desktop Manager for Santa Fe College

Solution

The IT Services department realized that a high quality video conferencing solution was necessary for Santa Fe College to function. After talking to the University of Florida about their video conferencing technology usage, Santa Fe College looked to demo Lifesize.

“Once we saw the Lifesize system in action for ourselves, we realized that it was exactly what we needed and ideal for our classroom setting. It wasn’t long before we placed an initial order and overhauled our entire video environment.”

The team at Santa Fe College was so eager to replace their failing legacy Polycom equipment, they expedited the rollout three months ahead of schedule.

“I remember showing one of the faculty members the first Lifesize system we set up and he said ‘Wow! I can actually see!’ It made me laugh, but really it just demonstrated how much better the quality was.”

Outcome

Since implementing a full suite of Lifesize solutions in the data center and the classroom, Santa Fe College uses video conferencing extensively. Classes now have the capability to be conducted in a virtual environment, enabling students from satellite locations to engage with their professors and classmates in real time, raise their hands and ask live questions. Teachers can also share their screens and record and distribute their lessons for future playback.

“Video requires a commitment from everyone, from IT to the faculty to the students. But once everyone made that commitment, the technology exceeded expectations and we’re able to do more than we ever thought possible. At Santa Fe College, we aim to do everything we can to help our students graduate, and making classes more convenient through the power of Lifesize is an essential part of that equation.”

Tens of thousands of organizations around the world trust Lifesize. Get your team started on Lifesize today. Visit www.lifesize.com for more information.