

The Siemens logo is displayed in a white box with a teal background. The word "SIEMENS" is written in a bold, teal, sans-serif font.

Ingenuity for life

A large white sign for Columbia International University (CIU) is shown at an angle. The sign features the acronym "CIU" in large, dark blue letters, followed by the full name "Columbia International University" in a smaller, dark blue font. Below the name, the tagline "Educating from a Biblical Worldview" is written in a smaller, italicized font. The sign is set against a background of trees and a clear sky.

Columbia International University

Helping students achieve world impact by creating a perfect place to learn

usa.siemens.com/highered

In South Carolina, Columbia International University (CIU) has been providing students with a lifelong educational foundation for nearly a century. CIU's philosophy is centered on having a global impact with hands-on experience.

"We want to recruit new students, and so we need a more comfortable, beautiful environment for people to want to be in, to want to learn. It's a competitive world out there in higher education, and we have to be able to compete, not just for the sake of our mission, but for our ministry and the students' education," says Rob Hartman, Chief Financial Officer.

Overcoming an aging infrastructure

Students learn best, faculty teach best, and universities can best achieve their mission when the campus environment is safe, secure, and comfortable. This recognition was a critical moment for CIU; and so began their partnership with Siemens.

"When you drive onto the campus of CIU, you think, 'this is beautiful.' To make it a perfect place, it has to be comfortable in the classroom, in the dining hall, everywhere you go. But there were so many factors working against us," explains Hartman.

Aging infrastructure was the key factor Hartman and CIU's facilities engineering team believed was working against the university. From the HVAC system and its controls to the lighting and water systems, the entire campus was ready for a transformation. "We've been around since 1923, and we have some fairly old infrastructure," says David Magnuson, CIU's Physical Plant Director. He continues: "It's been always a challenge to look around and realize we're wasting energy on air conditioning, as one example."

Hartman was equally concerned: "We looked at the guts of the campus—the HVAC, the pipes, all the things that are critically important to the function of the university. If we didn't change something, we could be shut down for weeks."





Funding CIU's campus transformation

Through a comprehensive audit, Siemens reviewed all of the campus's resource-consuming systems as well as the building envelope to identify improvement opportunities, ultimately landing on a range of energy conservation measures that would be financed through an energy-savings performance contract. In this way, CIU could begin its campus transformation while funding those improvements with the energy savings generated by the project.

Hartman states, "They didn't just tell us. They showed us in writing and promised in a contract that the energy savings would offset the expense of these multi-million-dollar improvements. At that point, we were all in."

Changing spaces on the CIU campus

Today, the CIU campus is benefitting from the replacement of key HVAC systems, an improved building automation system in Desigo® CC, lighting upgrades, improvements to the water system, and building envelope work that will seal off energy leaks from campus buildings. Thanks to the new building controls, Magnuson says, "We're able to call up each building to

see the temperatures and airflows. We can look at alarms and scheduling; it's an important thing to be able to shut the buildings off when they're not being used to save energy and money. Additionally, we're in the midst of a lot of growth right now, transitioning to the next generation of schools. One of the nice things with the Siemens project is that each building can be incorporated into the central control system easily."

Hartman concurs: "Our spaces at CIU have changed remarkably as a result of this partnership with Siemens—from comfort to not worrying about changing the thermostat or turning off the lights when you leave the room."

Just as exciting to CIU are the improvements to the water system, which will not only help reduce consumption, but will give Magnuson's team more control over and insight into the campus's irrigation system.

Together, these resource-savings projects will generate total annual savings of more than \$600,000, which, according to Hartman, will enable more strategic allocations: "All that money we are saving can be redirected to the kinds of things our admissions teams are ready for."

As CIU advances its mission and continues to grow, Hartman is enthusiastic about what the future holds, and believes that the partnership with Siemens will play a central role in that transformation. He concludes, "Everything we do here lives beyond this organization. Our partnership with Siemens will help us take our beautiful campus and bring that beauty everywhere. It's going to be as beautiful inside as it is outside."

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