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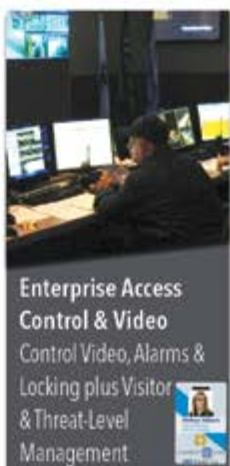
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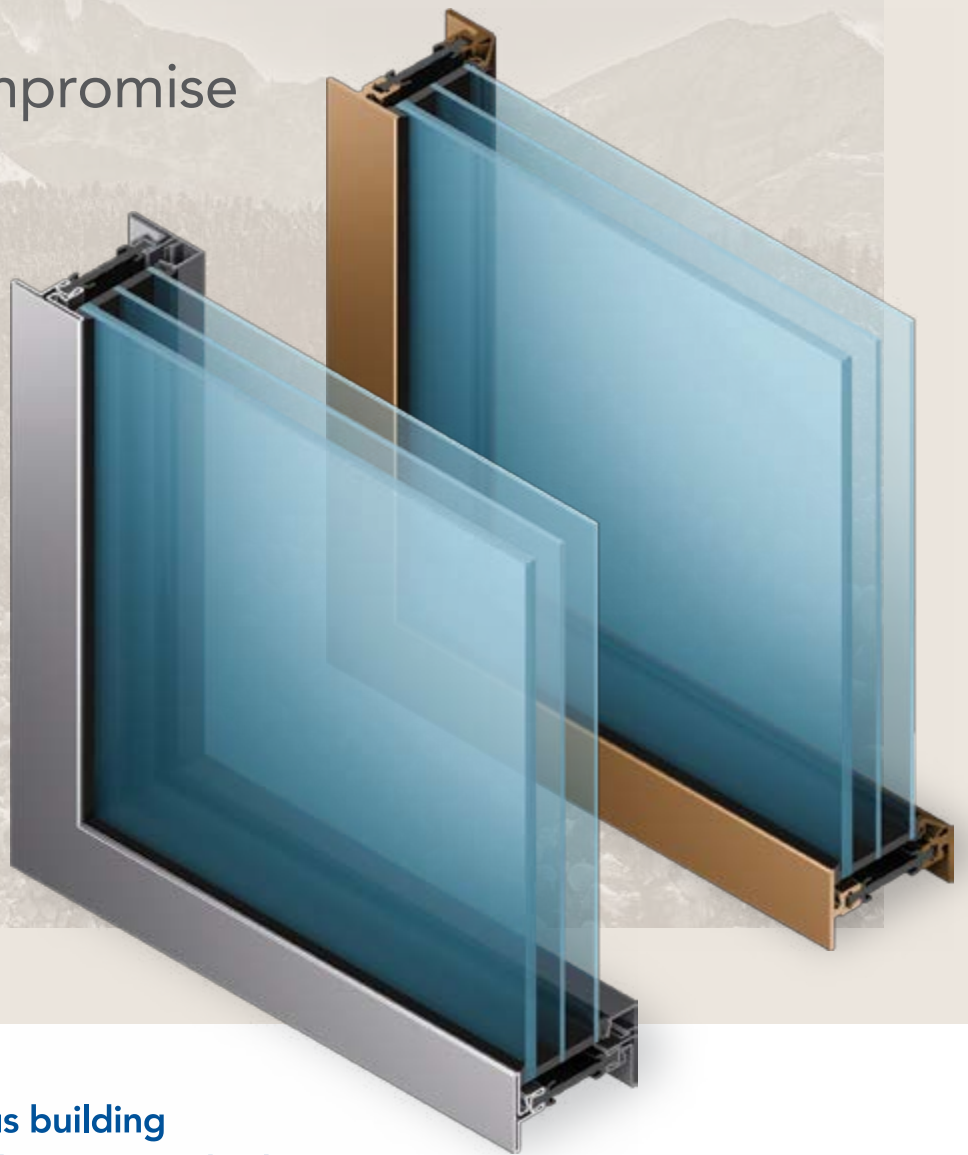
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Make Your Space Work Harder: A Smarter Storage Strategy for Campus Recreation

Campus recreation spaces are constantly changing, and storage can either support that flexibility or slow everything down. Discover how smarter storage strategies can reduce clutter, speed up setup and transitions, protect valuable equipment, simplify staff workflows, and help colleges and universities get more value from the space they already have.



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The 2026 Dean's List

The 2026 Dean's List Award winners represent exceptional products and services in a variety of categories. The companies on this list offer continuing, long-term contributions to private colleges and universities that strive to provide the finest facilities and services to their students, staff, and faculty.



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Lynda Miller was drawn early in her academic career to the field of theriogenology—the branch of veterinary medicine which involves animal reproduction. Today she is a professor of Theriogenology and Large Animal Department Head at Lincoln Memorial University (LMU), collaborating with colleagues and students to address vital issues in equine reproductive health.



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Plunge Pools on Campus: Planning for Performance, Flexibility and Long- Term Value

Plunge pools can transform campus wellness and athletic recovery—but thoughtful planning ensures performance, efficiency, accessibility and long-term value.

Editor's Letter

SEPTEMBER 2026

September always feels like a little bit of a reset. The students are back, the residence halls are humming, the sidewalks are busy, and suddenly every square inch of campus seems to have a job to do. For college and university facility teams, of course, “back to school” doesn’t mean easing into a new semester—it means full throttle.

There are buildings to maintain, classrooms to prepare, events to support, systems to monitor and an endless parade of little surprises that somehow become emergencies five minutes before lunch. If you work in facilities, you know the drill: coffee is not a beverage in September; it’s infrastructure.

This issue of PUPN is especially meaningful because it brings back one of our favorite annual traditions: the **Dean’s List Awards**. Each year, we recognize the premier providers of products and services serving the elite private college and university facility market. These companies play an important role behind the scenes, helping institutions create safer, smarter, more functional and more inspiring environments for students, faculty and staff.

And while the Dean’s List celebrates the people and companies making a difference across the campus environment, we’re also taking a closer look at two areas that are increasingly important to today’s facilities professionals.

First, security. Our friends at NAPCO share a thought-leadership perspective on the evolving security landscape and what facility leaders should be thinking about as campuses become more connected—and, unfortunately, more complicated. Security is no longer something that simply happens at the front door. It’s woven into the entire campus experience.

We’re also turning our attention to auditoriums with a piece from Wenger. These spaces have to do a remarkable amount of work: lectures, performances, ceremonies, guest speakers, student events and occasionally the kind of production that makes you wonder how anyone got that equipment through a single doorway. Designing and outfitting them well requires equal parts creativity, engineering and practical experience.

So, as students return in full force and campus life kicks into high gear, we hope this issue gives you a moment to pause, discover some new ideas and recognize the people helping make it all work.

Here’s to another busy academic year—and to the facilities professionals who keep the whole show running.

Enjoy the issue!

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The Science of New Life: Equine Reproduction and Veterinary Innovation at Lincoln Memorial University

BY CYNTHIA MWENJA, PhD

Lynda Miller, professor of Theriogenology and Large Animal Department Head at Lincoln Memorial University (LMU), collaborates with both colleagues and students to develop vital solutions for addressing issues in equine reproductive health. She also partners with campus stakeholders to create and validate simulation models for veterinary clinical training. Every aspect of Miller's research program is dedicated to preparing the next generation of veterinarians for excellence in the field.

During Miller's undergraduate years, she was drawn to the field of theriogenology—the branch of veterinary medicine which involves all aspects of animal reproduction, including obstetrics, disease, and physiology. She was curious about physiology and hormones before she ever took a course that covered those subjects, and the field of theriogenology offered the opportunity to explore both subjects in depth.

Due to her interest in equine reproduction, Miller chose to pursue graduate studies with Mats H.T. Troedsson, who is now a professor at the University of Kentucky's Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center. After beginning doctoral work, she took a break from graduate equine reproduction research to earn her doctorate in veterinary medicine. She later resumed her studies with Troedsson and earned a PhD in equine reproduction from the University of Kentucky; she also completed her residency in veterinary medicine and became board certified so that she could later teach theriogenology at the university level.

Now at LMU, Miller's research program in equine reproductive health is growing, and she often engages in collaborative research with Troedsson at Gluck. In one collaboration, Troedsson and Miller focused on equine fertility, working with a PhD student from the University of Copenhagen to improve their understanding of tissue fibrosis in the equine endometrium. Such fibrosis can decrease fertility, so addressing this issue can support better breeding outcomes. Troedsson, Miller, and their team studied the functions of proteins and lipids in the endometrium to gain insights regarding the mechanics of the fibrotic scarring. Miller also researches whether using probiotics in semen for artificial insemination can decrease antibiotic use.

An ongoing collaborative project between Troedsson and Miller aims to develop protein-based diagnostics for bacterial biofilms from in vitro equine uterine sampling. Biofilms, Troedsson says, are complex communities of bacteria within a matrix of proteins and lipids; their presence can prolong infectious disease. Biofilm density tends to prevent antibiotics

from reaching bacteria at the bottom of the film, thereby leading to antibiotic resistance. In this long-term research project, Troedsson and Miller hope to become able to determine whether an animal has a biofilm through identifying the matrix proteins involved. Troedsson states that if they can find a diagnostic method to find equine biofilms in utero, then they can know when to combine therapies to treat horses with uterine infections more effectively.

Troedsson and Miller are also seeking ways to decrease antibiotic resistance by reducing antibiotic use where possible. In their current project focusing on this issue, they are looking for a substance which can extend the storage life of semen that is kept for artificial insemination. Currently, a low dose of antibiotics is commonly added to the semen stored for this purpose, and the issue is that the antibiotics are then introduced to the uterus with the semen. Low doses of antibiotics are particularly apt to increase antibiotic resistance over time, so Troedsson and Miller are looking for an alternative to correct the issue. One



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possibility is that of probiotics, though Troedsson notes that the challenge is that these substances are also bacteria; even if they promote a healthy biome, they could be harmful if out of balance. Troedsson and Miller are trying to find an effective combination and concentration of probiotics which might minimize harm to sperm, maximize semen storage life, and decrease the chances of promoting antibiotic resistance.

LMU veterinary students also have opportunities to complete summer research with Troedsson and his colleagues at Gluck, which maintains a population of horses to serve as research animals. Troedsson points out that gaining exposure to veterinary research can help students understand how they might continue engaging in research as they move into their own professional lives as veterinarians and/ or faculty members. LMU students spend summers collecting data at Gluck; they then evaluate the data and write research papers under Miller's direction at LMU during the school year. Miller affirms that LMU does also have a herd of animals,

but they are primarily used for teaching, not research. Miller and her students are, however, able to do some non-invasive projects with the horses at LMU. For example, one current project is comparing outcomes between horses who receive probiotic supplementation and a control group.

As an educator, Miller is keenly focused on ensuring that the next generation of students is exceptionally prepared for their future careers. Since education in veterinary medicine is competency based, students need to learn technical skills with safety for both themselves and the animals they work with. For this reason, she considers her educational research equally important to her equine fertility work.

Miller's current educational research centers on creating and refining the simulation models that veterinary educators use to teach many clinical skills. Such simulators allow students to establish their abilities by repeatedly practicing skills until they reach competence. While veterinary students do

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As an educator, Miller is keenly focused on ensuring that the next generation of students is exceptionally prepared for their future careers.

need to work with live animals to gain some of the knowledge and abilities they need, they can acquire many needed skills by working with simulation models, thereby promoting animal welfare and limiting animal distress. For example, students can work with injection and epidural simulation models to learn the landmarks and practice multiple times. One LMU model uses a barrel to represent the body of a cow, with a fake spinal column and tail so students can practice procedures such as venipuncture of the coccyx. LMU also has models of the full heads and necks of a horse and a cow so students can practice I.V. insertion, as well as subcutaneous and intramuscular injections. The simulation models provide invaluable resources for students to become skilled in these procedures before performing them on actual animals.

Some veterinary clinical skills simulation models are commercially available, but many are not, reports Julie Hunt, associate dean of

Clinical Sciences and professor of Veterinary Medicine at LMU. To fill the gap, Hunt and Miller collaborate to research the creation of simulation models for a wide variety of clinical skills. Once they produce a preliminary design, they work with Robert Brockman, head of LMU's model lab; his team fabricates the models, including students in the work. Miller appreciates Brachman's gifts in producing artistic and realistic models, as well as his instinctive understanding of what each model needs. During the model development phase, Miller, Hunt, and their research team give feedback for refinement.

As Miller and Hunt began this research collaboration, they not only wanted to produce simulation models to teach their students vital veterinary skills, but they also wanted to determine how effective specific models were in teaching those skills—and how well the abilities transferred to working with live animals. After a model is created and

refined, then, they also validate the design by collecting data on its use and efficacy; additionally, they construct scoring rubrics to assess students who work with the model. Some skills suited to simulation include artificial insemination, delivering foals, and performing c-sections, as well as equine and bovine castration, prolapse reduction, and laparoscopic procedures. Their design for an artificial sheep insemination model is currently in the process of securing a patent. Hunt and Miller have published their findings and presented their clinical skills simulation model research around the world.

Once a model has been created, refined, and validated, Miller and Hunt generate micro credentials that students can earn through demonstrating competency in performing specific skills on a simulation model. For example, a student might earn a bronze badge by doing bovine palpitation and telling Miller what they are feeling and what their findings



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mean. Students can then earn more advanced silver and gold badges by showing additional knowledge and skills on the subject. Once the badges are earned, the students have them to show demonstrated skills in specific areas. In addition to the benefit of simply having these skills in their repertoires, these micro credentials can be helpful for students in securing externships or post-graduate employment before they become licensed veterinarians themselves.

Miller and Hunt include student researchers in their clinical skills simulation model development work. Miller highlights the ways that this experience gives students meaningful opportunities to take part in the entire research process, including designing the study, validating the models, and presenting the results. As she mentors students through these steps, they learn that ongoing research is not separate from the practice of veterinary medicine; it is a crucial element in solving real

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world clinical problems.

In addition to her extensive research program and teaching responsibilities, Miller also takes up often-unseen academic labor as a member of the exam committee of the American College of Theriogenologists. Candidates must meet certain benchmarks in their residency programs in order to qualify for the exam, which is given annually in July. Miller says that each new exam demands a full year to write and refine. First, the chair chooses the topics of questions and divides the work among committee members. Throughout the fall, committee members write and review their assigned sections; in January, the whole team reviews the entire draft exam. During the spring, committee members suggest wording changes and other adjustments. Due to the extensive and meticulous work required, Miller notes that the exam is usually only fully finalized one or two weeks before it is given. Such painstaking work underlies assessment in many fields and should be recognized for the ongoing support for field rigor that it represents.

Miller offers a model for faculty members who wish to pursue their personal research interests while also contributing to educational research in their fields. Her research program in both arenas offers meaningful opportunities for her students to gain research experience, which ultimately prepares them to reach their full potential in the field of theriogenology.



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Dr. Cynthia Mwenja teaches Composition and Rhetoric at the University of Montevallo.

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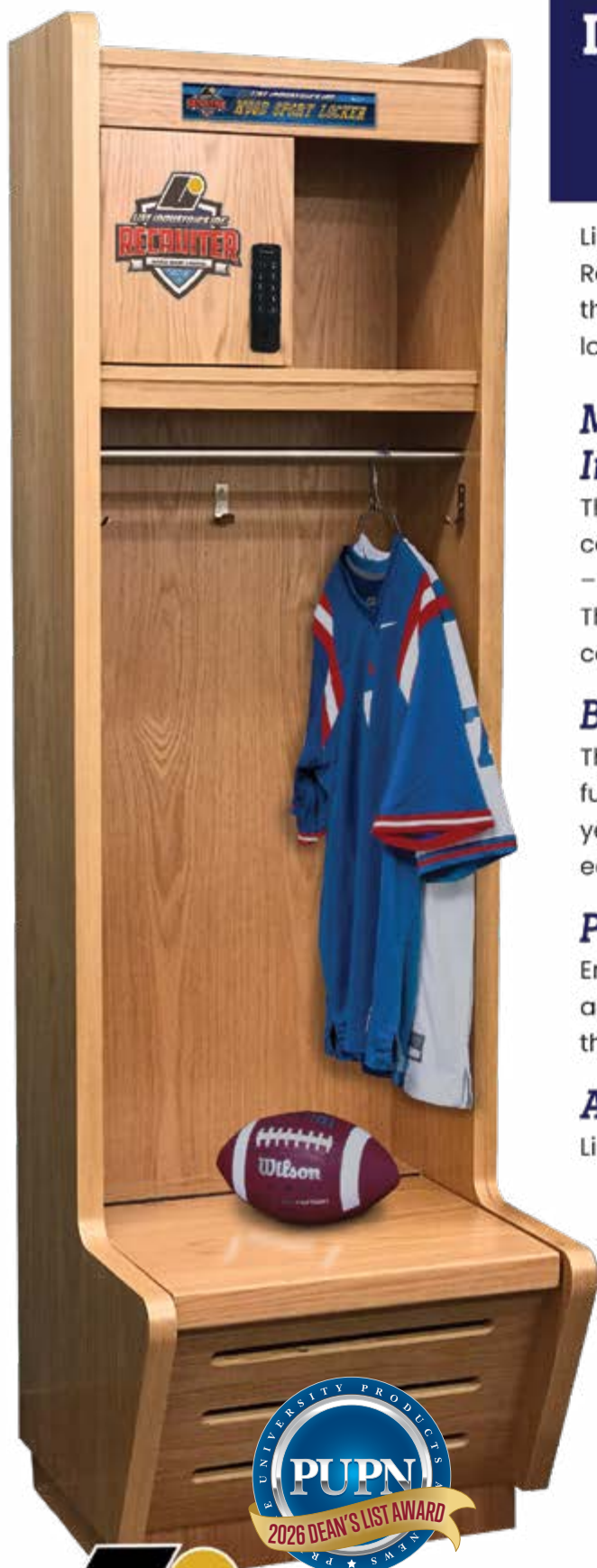


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Plunge Pools on Campus: Planning for Performance, Flexibility and Long-Term Value

BY NATARE CORPORATION

As private colleges and universities continue to look for innovative ways to enhance student wellness, recreation and athletic performance, plunge pools are becoming an increasingly attractive addition to campus aquatic facilities.

But choosing a plunge pool is about much more than selecting a size or model.

For facilities professionals, the decision involves understanding how the pool will be used, determining the right location and infrastructure, planning for accessibility and safety, and considering long-term operating and maintenance costs. For campuses considering one plunge pool—or multiple installations across different facilities—careful planning early in the process can make the difference between a successful project and one that presents unnecessary challenges later. Natare Pools offers the following guidance for institutions considering plunge pools for their campuses.

Start With How the Pool Will Be Used

Q: How will you help us determine the right size, depth and number of plunge

pools for our campus?

A: It really starts with understanding how you plan to use the plunge pools and who will be using them. Some are designed for individual use, while others are larger and can accommodate multiple people at once.

There's a lot of flexibility when it comes to size, shape and depth, so we'll talk through your goals, available space and expected use. From there, we can help determine what makes the most sense for your campus and your programs.

Understanding the Total Cost

Q: What are the total installation and long-term operating costs?

A: There isn't really a one-size-fits-all answer because cost can vary quite a bit depending on the size of the plunge pool, the complexity of the installation and the site itself.

Access is a big consideration. We can deliver a stainless steel plunge pool as a single piece, in multiple sections, or as a knock-down system that is welded together on site. How we approach it depends largely on how we can get the pool into the building and where it needs to go.

We'll also look at whether the plunge pool is a standalone project or part of a larger new build or renovation. All of those factors, along with the local market, can affect the initial cost.

Long-term operating costs are largely driven by the amount of water and the equipment used to heat, filter and circulate it. Local utility rates matter as well, since the cost of water and electricity can vary significantly from one location to another.

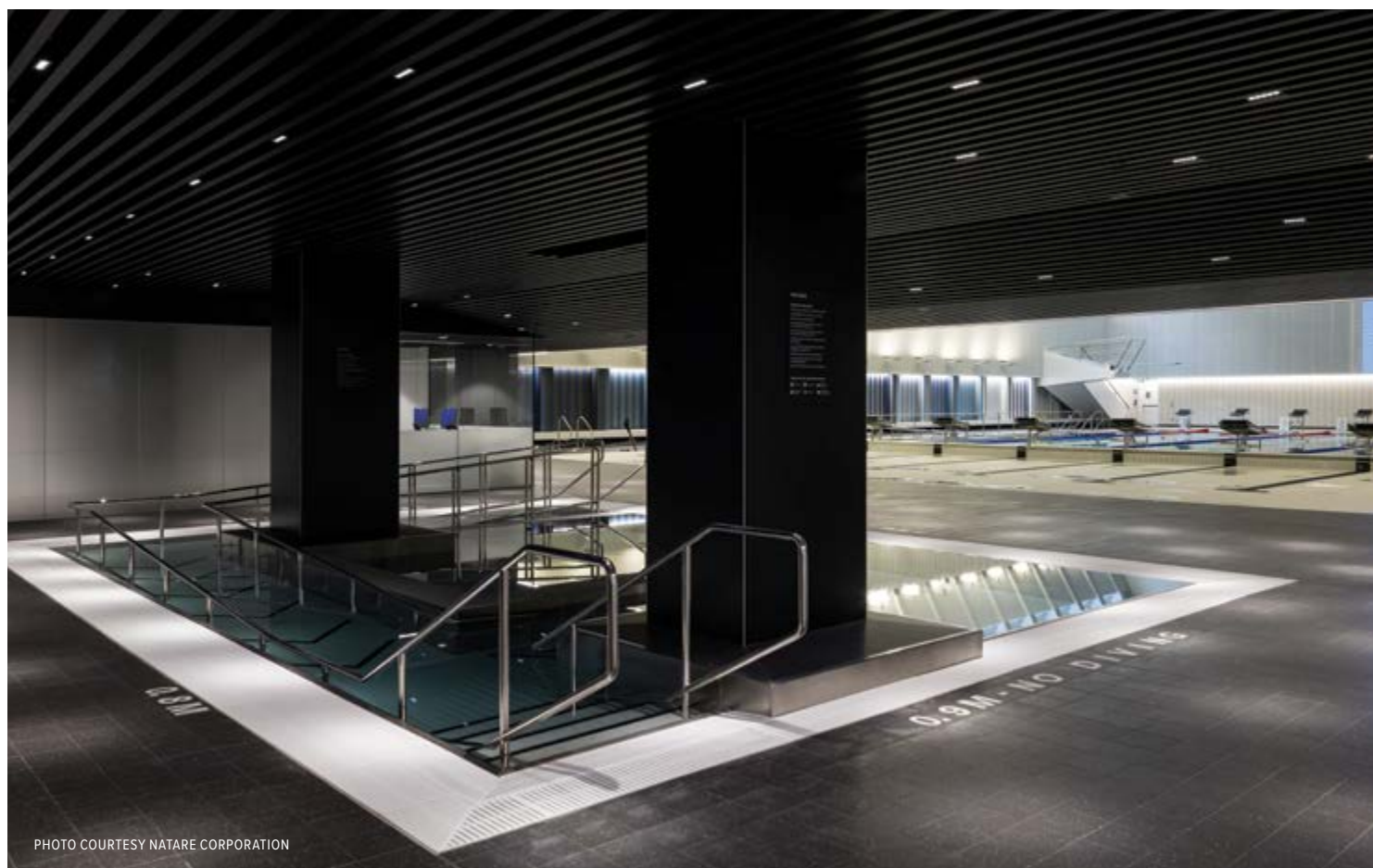


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Plan Infrastructure Early

Q: What infrastructure does each pool require?

A: The first thing we need to understand is what will support the plunge pool. Typically, we're working with either a concrete slab or structural steel beams, and we can design around either one.

Our stainless-steel plunge pools are self-supporting, so the pool walls themselves don't require additional structural support. We can also customize the pool to work with the building structure.

The important thing is getting those details early in the design process so we can account for any unique conditions from the start.

For campus facilities departments, that early coordination can be particularly important when a plunge pool is being incorporated into an existing building. Access, structural conditions and the location of mechanical

equipment should all be considered during the planning process rather than after the project is underway.

Safety and Accessibility Are Part of the Design

Q: What safety features and accessibility options are built into the system?

A: Accessibility is something we can account for during the design process. Depending on the facility and how the pool will be used, that could include an accessible ramp, lift, transfer wall or another solution.

There isn't one approach that works for every project, so we look at the client's preferences, how people will be using the pool and, of course, applicable local codes. From there, we can help incorporate the appropriate features into the overall design.

That flexibility is important for higher education facilities because plunge pools may serve different populations depending

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For campus facilities departments, that early coordination can be particularly important when a plunge pool is being incorporated into an existing building.



PHOTO COURTESY NATARE CORPORATION

on their location. A pool associated with an athletic training facility, for example, may have different usage patterns than one located within a student recreation or wellness facility.

Maintenance and Operations

Q: How much maintenance will each plunge pool require, and who will perform it?

A: Routine maintenance will depend largely on the operating equipment and interior finish that are selected. Like any commercial pool, the water will need to be properly circulated, filtered and maintained.

Local health codes will also determine requirements for things like water chemistry testing and monitoring. Depending on how the campus operates its aquatic facilities, that work may be handled by facility staff or contracted to a local pool service company.

One of the advantages of stainless steel is that it provides a durable, low-maintenance pool structure, so the focus of ongoing maintenance is primarily on the water, equipment and interior surfaces.

For universities, understanding these responsibilities before installation can help facilities managers establish realistic staffing, maintenance and operating expectations. The pool itself is only one component of the system; filtration, circulation, water chemistry and other equipment all contribute to the ongoing workload.

Efficiency Starts With the Right Design

Q: How energy and water efficient is the system?

A: A lot of that comes down to the size of the plunge pool and the equipment selected. Simply put, the more water you have, the more energy it takes to heat, filter and circulate it.

The good news is that today's equipment gives owners more opportunities to operate efficiently. We can look at the intended use of the pool and help identify equipment that delivers the performance the facility needs without unnecessarily using energy, chemicals or water.

For institutions focused on sustainability and operating efficiency, this makes equipment selection an important part of the initial planning conversation. The objective is not simply to build a pool that meets today's needs, but to develop a system that can be operated efficiently over its useful life.

Ask for Relevant References

Q: Can you provide references from other colleges or institutions with similar installations?

A: We've worked with colleges, universities and other facilities on a wide range of stainless-steel pool and spa projects along with PVC membranes, bulkheads, stainless steel gutters, filtration systems and more. We can provide relevant examples based on what you're considering for your campus.

Every project is a little different, so we try to connect clients with examples that are useful—whether that means a similar application, installation condition, pool size, equipment or overall project scope.

For facilities professionals evaluating a new plunge pool, references can provide valuable insight into how a system performs in a real-world campus environment. Institutions should consider looking beyond the finished installation and asking about the planning process, installation conditions, maintenance requirements and overall experience with the system.

Thinking Beyond One Pool

Q: If we eventually want to install additional plunge pools at other locations on campus, how easily can your system be replicated?

A: Very easily, and there can actually be some advantages to doing that. Once we have a design that works for your campus, we don't necessarily have to start from scratch when it's time to add another location.

If the same or a similar plunge pool can be used elsewhere on campus, we can build from that original design and make adjustments where needed. There can also be cost efficiencies when we're able to fabricate multiple identical or similar units at the same time.



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For a university looking at a phased approach or multiple locations across campus, that repeatability can make future projects much simpler.

A Strategic Approach to Campus Aquatics

For private colleges and universities, the appeal of plunge pools can extend well beyond the pool itself. Whether the goal is to support student wellness, athletic recovery, recreation or another campus program, the best results begin with a comprehensive planning process.

Determining how the pool will be used, where it will be installed and what infrastructure is available provides the foundation. From there, institutions can evaluate accessibility, safety, equipment, maintenance, energy and water consumption, as well as the potential for future expansion.

For campuses considering multiple locations, establishing a successful design the first time can provide an important advantage. A repeatable approach can simplify future installations while potentially creating efficiencies in design and fabrication.

The key takeaway for facilities professionals is straightforward: plan the plunge pool as part of the campus infrastructure—not as an isolated piece of equipment. Early collaboration among facilities teams, architects, aquatic professionals and the pool manufacturer can help ensure that the final installation meets the needs of today's users while giving the institution flexibility for tomorrow's campus.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Natare Corporation is a global leader in stainless steel swimming pools and aquatic systems. Based in Indianapolis, the 100% employee-owned company designs, manufactures, and supports innovative pool solutions for competition venues, universities, resorts, waterparks, and aquatic facilities worldwide.



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Make Your Space Work Harder

A SMARTER STORAGE STRATEGY FOR CAMPUS RECREATION

BY WENGER CORPORATION

Campus recreation facilities are asked to do a lot.

A gym might host intramural basketball one night, open recreation the next afternoon, volleyball later in the week, and a campus event over the weekend. Fitness spaces, fieldhouses, equipment rooms, and multipurpose areas are constantly changing based on who needs them and what is happening that day.

That flexibility is part of what makes campus recreation valuable. It can also make storage a headache.

continued....



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Balls, nets, mats, cones, racquets, training gear, event supplies, and seasonal equipment all must go somewhere. And when storage is treated like leftover space instead of part of the facility plan, problems tend to show up quickly. Rooms get crowded. Equipment gets harder to find. Staff spend more time moving things around. Setup and teardown take longer than they should.

For colleges and universities watching budgets closely, the answer is not always more space. Sometimes the better question is much simpler: Are we using the space we already have as well as we could be?

Start With the Workflow

A crowded equipment room does not automatically mean the room is too small.

Sometimes the issue is poor use of vertical space. Sometimes the gear used every day is buried behind things that come out twice a year. Sometimes fixed shelving is holding equipment that really needs to move. In other cases, the room may simply be the result of years of adding one rack, cart, cabinet, or shelving unit at a time.

Before buying anything new, look at how the room actually works.

What equipment gets used every day? What moves from storage to the gym, fieldhouse, or court? What stays put? What needs to be secured? What is seasonal? What takes the most time to find, move, or put away?

Those questions tell you more than a floor plan by itself.

High-use equipment should be easy to reach. Seasonal items can live in less convenient locations. Bulky gear may be better stored vertically. Equipment that moves constantly may make more sense on a cart than on a fixed shelf.

The point is not to squeeze the most equipment into the smallest possible room. The point is to make the room work better for the people using it.

Decide What Should Move and What Should Stay

Campus recreation involves a lot of movement, so mobile storage can be a big help. But that does not mean everything needs wheels.

Fixed storage is often the right answer for items that stay in one location, especially when you can make better use of wall space or organize things that do not need to move often. Mobile storage makes more sense when staff are constantly taking equipment from a storage room to a gym, court, fieldhouse, or activity area.

continued....



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That distinction matters because every extra trip, lift, or reshuffle takes time.

If staff have to carry loose equipment back and forth, unload one cart to reach another, or move three things just to get to the one thing they need, the storage system is creating work instead of reducing it.

GearBoss storage systems, including carts, racks, shelving, and workstations, are designed around those kinds of needs. But the larger idea is not about one specific product. It is about figuring out what should move, what should stay fixed, and how quickly staff need to get to each category of equipment.

The storage should support the workflow, not force the workflow to work around it.

Shared Spaces Raise the Stakes

This matters even more in recreation and intramural facilities because the same room

may serve a long list of users.

Intramural leagues rotate. Club sports change. Open recreation shares space with classes, practices, tournaments, and special events. The faster a room can transition from one use to another, the more value the institution gets from that space.

Storage can make those transitions easier or harder.

If equipment can be staged before an activity, moved as a group, and returned to a clear home afterward, staff spend less time resetting the room. Good organization also gives student employees and part-time staff a system they can understand quickly.

That piece is easy to overlook.

A lot of campus recreation operations rely heavily on student workers. The storage

room should not depend on one experienced employee knowing where everything is hidden. It should make sense to the person working the next shift too.

That is where simple, repeatable organization has real value.

Protect the Investment You Already Made

For administrators, there is another reason to pay attention to storage: the equipment has already been purchased.

The institution has already invested in balls, nets, mats, training gear, athletic equipment, and the programs that use them. Storage affects how easy those items are to find, count, move, and protect.

When equipment has a defined place, staff can see what they have. They can tell what is missing. They can identify what is worn



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out instead of buying something new because nobody can find the old one. Equipment is also less likely to be piled up, buried, or repeatedly moved just to reach something else.

And improving storage does not have to mean one large capital project.

In many facilities, a phased approach makes more sense. Start with the area causing the most frustration. Maybe it is one overcrowded equipment room. Maybe it is the lack of mobile storage for intramural equipment. Maybe the problem is unused vertical space. Maybe it is simply a collection of storage pieces that no longer fit how the program operates.

Fixing one bottleneck at a time can make the project easier to budget and easier to evaluate.

It also creates a chance to standardize gradually. A consistent approach to carts, *continued....*



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shelving, and equipment locations is easier for staff to learn than a room full of one-off solutions collected over the years.

Plan for What Comes Next

Campus recreation does not stay the same forever.

Participation changes. New activities show up. Equipment inventories grow. A room designed for one purpose may eventually need to support three.

That is worth considering before making a storage decision.

Look for systems that can be reorganized, expanded, moved, or repurposed as needs change. The goal is not to predict exactly what the program will look like five or ten years from now. It is to avoid creating a solution that only works for today.

That kind of flexibility can be especially valuable in multipurpose facilities, where change is already part of the daily routine.

A Smarter Use of Space

The smartest recreation storage project may not create another square foot of space.

It may simply help a college or university use the space it already owns more intelligently.

That starts with understanding the workflow, separating fixed storage needs from mobile ones, organizing around frequency of use, and giving staff a system that is easy to understand and maintain.

Storage will never be the most visible part of a recreation facility. Most students will probably never think about it when it is working well.

But staff will notice when spaces turn over faster, equipment is easier to manage, and fewer hours are spent working around clutter.

For institutions trying to make thoughtful decisions about facilities and budgets, that is the real opportunity: not just finding a place to put more stuff, but making the space work harder.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Wenger



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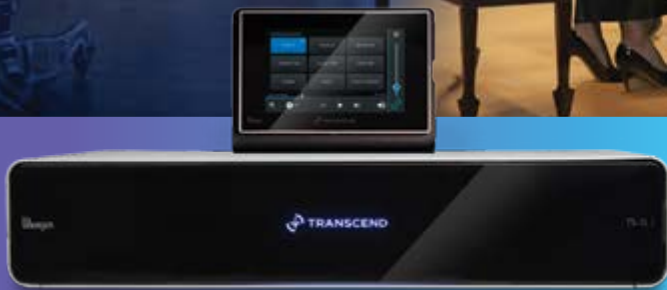
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From Fragmented Security to a Unified Campus Ecosystem

WHY PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES ARE MOVING SECURITY TO THE CLOUD

BY NAPCO SECURITY TECHNOLOGIES

For private schools, colleges and universities, protecting a campus has become both more important and more complex. Administrators are responsible for students, faculty, staff and visitors moving through classrooms, residence halls, laboratories, athletic facilities, administrative offices and other spaces—sometimes across multiple buildings or campuses.

Yet many institutions are still addressing today's security challenges with systems accumulated over decades.

continued....

Access control may have one database. Intrusion security another. Locks, identification and badging may be managed separately, while video surveillance resides on yet another platform. Each can bring its own software, servers, maintenance requirements and upgrade cycles.

The result is not simply complexity. It is technology and hardware debt that can become increasingly expensive to maintain.

A new generation of securely cloud-managed platforms offers schools an opportunity to rethink that model. Rather than purchasing and maintaining individual security technologies in silos, institutions can increasingly bring access control, identity and credentials, badging, locking, intrusion security and video together as a unified ecosystem.

At NAPCO Security Technologies, we believe this convergence represents one of the

most consequential changes in campus security in decades. Our MVP Cloud Access Platform reflects this approach, integrating cloud access control, wireless access locks, intelligent access panels, multiple credential technologies, intrusion security and video-management integration within one expanding platform.

The significance goes well beyond moving software to the cloud. It is about enabling the technologies protecting people and property to work together.

Identity Is Becoming the Center of Campus Security

One of the most important developments is the convergence of physical security and identity.

Traditionally, a badge might open a door, a separate system might arm or disarm a security area, and another application might be required to investigate the corresponding video.

Today, **identity can become the common thread connecting those functions.**

Modern access platforms can support smartphone wallet/NFC and Bluetooth mobile credentials alongside proximity cards, MIFare smart cards, PINs and multi-factor authentication.

That flexibility is particularly valuable in education because campus populations continually change. Students arrive and graduate. Adjunct faculty may teach for a semester. Contractors require temporary access. Visitors may need permission to enter a particular area without gaining unrestricted access elsewhere.

A cloud-managed environment can allow authorized administrators to enroll users and credentials, modify permissions and instantly add or remove access without being tied to a particular security workstation. Access schedules and permissions can determine

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where and when an identity is valid, while entry activity and door events can be centrally monitored.

The fundamental security question therefore becomes: **Who is this person, where should this individual be permitted to go, when should access be permitted, and what should the security ecosystem do when that credential is presented?**

Identity and badging are no longer peripheral administrative functions. They can become fundamental components of campus security policy.

Emergency Lockdown Must Be Both Digital and Physical

The value of convergence becomes especially apparent during an emergency.

Schools need the ability to rapidly

communicate with occupants, including text and other emergency notifications that tell students, faculty and staff what is happening and what actions they should take.

But communication is only one side of emergency response. A text message saying "lockdown" and the physical act of securing a campus should be coordinated parts of the same strategy.

Campus-wide lockdown can be implemented with a consistent locking approach based on an institution's preferences and security strategy. Solutions can include mechanical lockdown locks with occupant-visible status indicators, helping people inside a room quickly confirm that a door is secured, as well as standalone or networked electronic locks equipped with badge readers.

Electronic solutions can accept campus ID cards, mobile-phone credentials and/or PIN codes and can also incorporate lockdown-status

indication, benefiting both occupants and first responders during an emergency.

For electronic and networked locks, battery life and physical durability are critical considerations, particularly across a large campus where hundreds or thousands of battery-powered openings could otherwise create a significant maintenance burden.

Advanced wireless locking can provide years of battery life while delivering rugged construction for demanding everyday use. NAPCO's locking portfolio encompasses cylindrical, mortise and deadbolt locks as well as exit-trim and panic-bar solutions for interior and exterior door applications, with an emphasis on low maintenance, durability and code compliance. Trilogy Networkx locks, for example, are cited as providing typical battery life of three or more years, depending upon operating frequency, programming and credential types.

continued....

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Commonality across a campus is itself an important advantage. Classrooms, residence halls, offices, laboratories, storerooms, common areas and perimeter openings can share a familiar family of locks, operation and appearance, while electronic and networked openings can additionally share credentials and centralized control.

When networked together, those openings become part of the larger security ecosystem. At the first indication of trouble, authorized personnel can lock down an affected area—or potentially an entire campus—quickly from the central system. Conversely, doors can be globally unlocked or placed into free-passage mode just as rapidly when conditions require it. NAPCO's cloud-access architecture supports remote management and lockdown or unlocking of interior and exterior doors by area or globally.

Networked locking adds another significant

benefit: centralized visibility and audit-trail reporting. Door and access activity can be monitored by the central access-control system, giving authorized personnel greater awareness of activity across controlled openings and a record of door events.

And the investment is not limited to emergencies. The same locks and access infrastructure protecting a campus during a crisis can serve its everyday needs—from dormitories and classrooms to offices, storerooms and other controlled spaces.

Access, Security and Video Become More Valuable Together

Consider an access-controlled door opening unexpectedly after hours.

With disconnected systems, determining what occurred might require security personnel to move between several applications. Who entered? Was a valid credential used? What

was the security-system status? What does the camera show?

Convergence Changes that Workflow

NAPCO MVP is designed to integrate access with NAPCO security systems, providing coordinated access and system-disarm credentials, shared administrator and user privileges, and unified system status and controls.

Integration with leading video-management systems can provide visual verification of door events and centralized security management across facilities or multiple sites.

Instead of simply knowing that something happened, personnel can more quickly establish the context around an event.

For universities operating many buildings—and private schools where a smaller administrative or security team may carry broad responsibilities—that simplification can be extremely valuable.

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Cloud Management Changes the Economics

Security convergence is occurring alongside another important transformation: the shift from capital-intensive security infrastructure toward cloud services and predictable operating expenses.

Traditional enterprise systems can require significant capital expenditures for servers, dedicated PCs and supporting infrastructure. Those assets then have to be maintained and eventually replaced. Software versions age, servers reach end of life and older hardware may struggle to accommodate new functionality.

A cloud-managed architecture changes that cycle.

NAPCO MVP is structured around a predictable monthly, per-door cloud service, helping institutions reduce the large upfront capital expense traditionally associated with access-control infrastructure.

This CAPEX-to-OpEx transition is about more than accounting. It can reduce dependence on onsite servers and dedicated security PCs, minimize local hardware and software upkeep and help eliminate disruptive upgrade cycles. MVP provides automatic system updates and enables authorized personnel to manage doors from a smartphone or web browser.

Instead of periodically replacing an aging technology stack, institutions can adopt a service architecture designed to remain current and expand over time.

Build for the Campus You Will Have Tomorrow

Schools and universities rarely remain static.

A private school may build an athletic facility. A university may renovate residence halls, add laboratories, acquire another building or open a satellite location.

A modern security architecture should accommodate that growth rather than penalize it.

NAPCO MVP is designed to scale from a few doors to thousands, with buildings, users and credentials added as needs change. It supports multiple facilities and locations without requiring an institution to replace the underlying system simply because it has grown.

That creates a fundamentally different technology roadmap: start with what the institution needs today without designing itself into another technology dead end tomorrow.

Cybersecurity Is Now Physical Security

As physical security becomes connected, cybersecurity also becomes an essential part of the discussion.

A cloud security platform should be evaluated for more than convenience. Data protection, encrypted communications, administrative *continued....*

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controls, resiliency and independently audited cybersecurity practices all matter.

NAPCO's architecture incorporates encrypted communications, and its MVP security criteria include SOC 2-audited cybersecurity for data and privacy protection.

Cloud-managed also should not mean that doors cease operating if a network connection is interrupted. MVP is designed so access-controlled doors and elevators can continue operating during network interruptions according to their configuration.

Cybersecurity, physical security and operational continuity are increasingly parts of the same conversation.

The question for educational institutions is no longer simply, **"Do we need a new access-control system?"**

A better question is:

"If we were designing campus security today, would we deliberately build separate systems for identity, badging, access, locking, intrusion security, emergency response and video—or would we want them working together?"

NAPCO has been creating and delivering security technology for education and other demanding markets since 1969. Today, the MVP Cloud Platform brings that experience in access control, security and locking technologies into a modern, scalable cloud architecture.

The opportunity for private schools and universities is significant: connect identities to credentials, credentials to doors, doors to locks, access events to security and video, and security systems to emergency response—all while simplifying management and moving away from costly technology debt.

The future of campus security isn't about having more separate security products.

It's about making the entire campus security ecosystem work as one.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Natare Corporation is a global leader in stainless steel swimming pools and aquatic systems. Based in Indianapolis, the 100% employee-owned company designs, manufactures, and supports innovative pool solutions for competition venues, universities, resorts, waterparks, and aquatic facilities worldwide.

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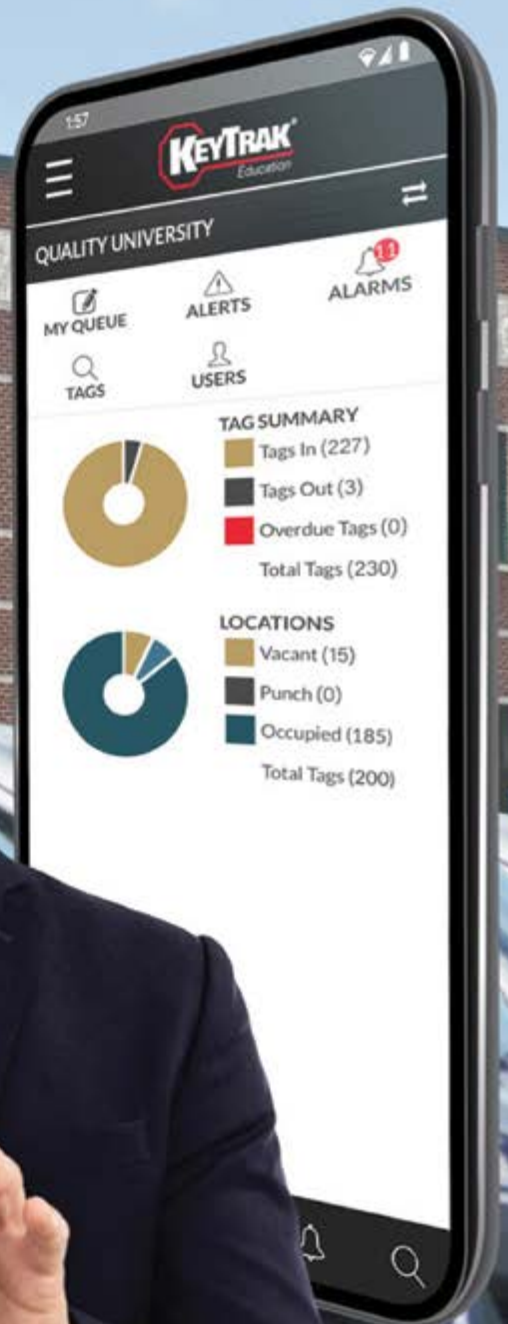
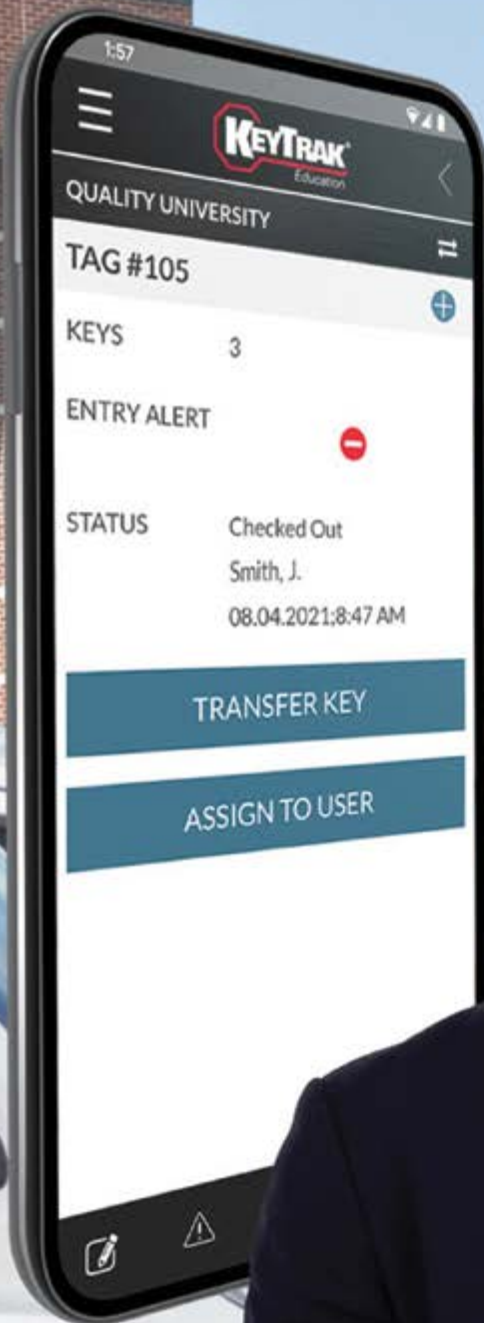
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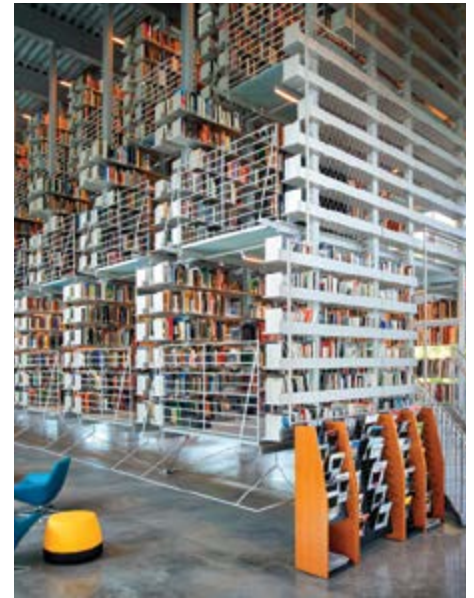
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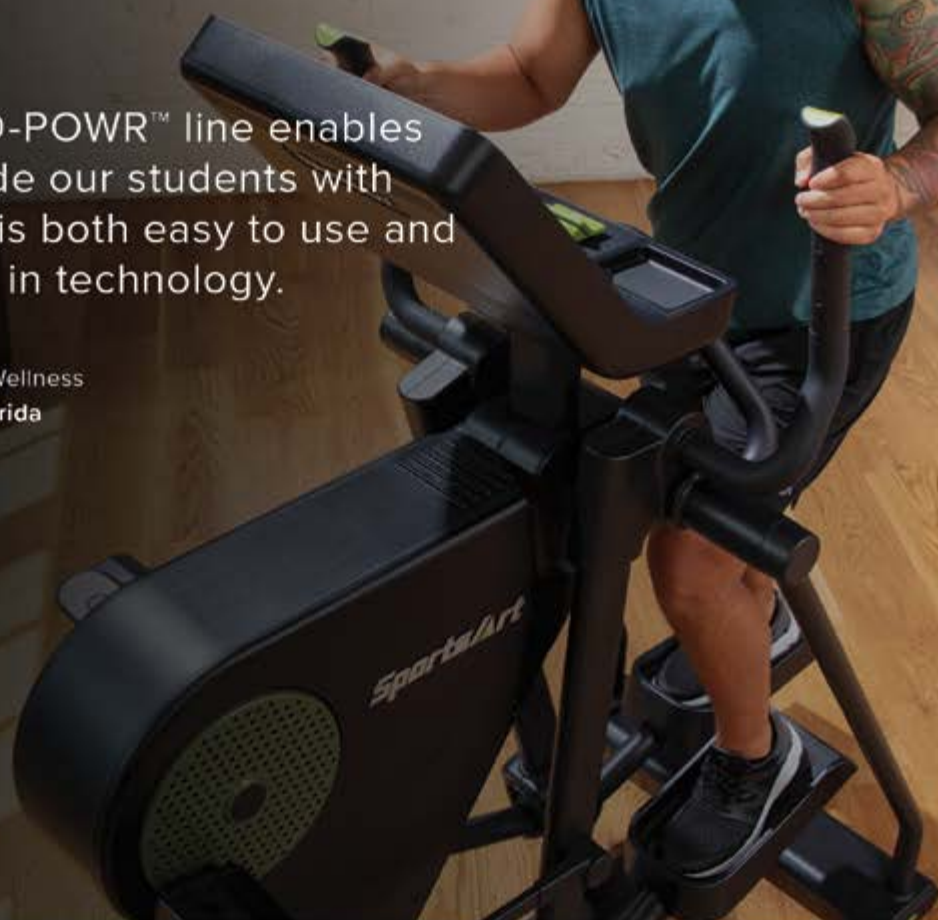
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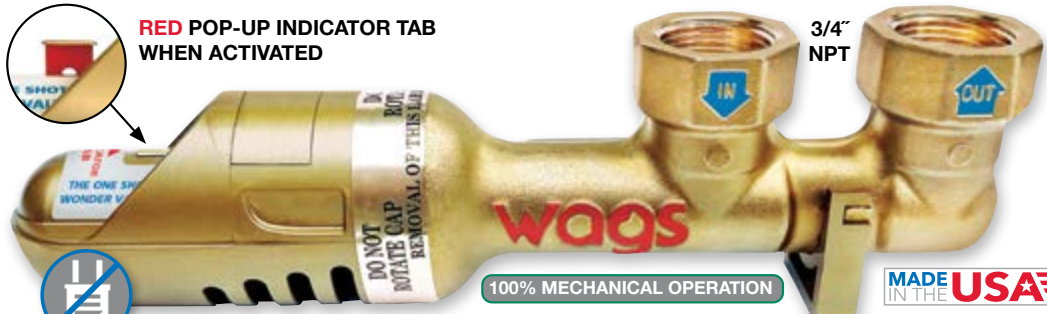
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