



A Lifetime of Learning Powered by Technology

Inside the universities modernizing networks, cybersecurity, and collaboration for the next generation of learners.

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Editor's Note

As higher education continues to evolve, technology remains an important catalyst for change. From connectivity everywhere that enables learning anywhere, to physical and cybersecurity measures that safeguard students and staff, and the immersive technology powering stadiums, classrooms, and auditoriums alike – colleges and universities are redefining what it means to deliver a truly connected campus experience.

At C1, we believe technology is more than infrastructure. It's a bridge to opportunity. This issue highlights four Higher Education institutions that are redefining learning through technology-based innovation and partnership:

- **Coppin State University** modernized its campus network, boosting bandwidth and reliability across the entire campus.
- **Kentucky State University** replaced 20-year-old infrastructure with a fiber-based, high-speed backbone that powers learning everywhere.
- **Aims Community College** simplified communications with a cloud-based platform, cutting telecom workload by 30%.
- **Texas Southern University** built a world-class Cybersecurity Lab, preparing students through hands-on experience and industry certifications.

Each story showcases how collaboration, innovation, and trust can power a lifetime of learning. Together, these campuses demonstrate that combining higher education and technology creates a blueprint for a lifetime of learning.



*By Stephan George,
Editor, C1 Insights*

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Impact Snapshot



12 campus buildings modernized at Coppin State University, transforming a legacy network into a high-speed, fully automated infrastructure that cut management time by more than half.



85,000 feet of new fiber and **800 wireless access points** deployed at Kentucky State University, expanding Wi-Fi coverage by 220% and delivering enterprise-grade connectivity campus-wide.



30% reduction in telecom workload achieved at Aims Community College after migrating to Avaya Cloud Office®, giving staff freedom to work and collaborate anywhere.



New Cybersecurity Lab built at Texas Southern University, providing students with hands-on experience, paid internships, and certifications that prepare them for the workforce.

"Having C1 as a partner for our network refresh has been one of the most amazing partnerships we've experienced."

– Taha Mohammed, Assistant Director of Campus Infrastructure Team, Coppin State University

"This investment in our network infrastructure is a critical step forward for KSU. It positions us as a leading institution in technology advancements."

– Wendy Dixie, VP of IT, Kentucky State University

"With C1's partnership, our students are learning on the same equipment and workflows they'll see on day one in the workforce."

– Dr. Claudius Claiborne, Acting Dean, Jesse H. Jones School of Business, Texas Southern University

Bottom line: Whether it's fiber networks, hybrid communications, or hands-on cybersecurity learning, these institutions prove that the right roadmap—and the right partner—turns technology investments into measurable outcomes for students, faculty, and communities alike.



From Bottlenecks to Breakthroughs: Coppin State Builds a Smarter Network



Located in the heart of Baltimore, **Coppin State University** is a historically Black institution serving a diverse and multigenerational student body. Its mission—to foster learning and innovation within the community—depends on the strength of its digital infrastructure.

“Having C1 as a partner for our network refresh has been one of the most amazing partnerships we’ve experienced,” says

Taha Mohammed, Assistant Director of Coppin’s Campus Infrastructure Team. That partnership turned a patchwork of outdated switches and manual processes into a unified, high-performance system powering every corner of campus.



*Taha Mohammed,
Assistant Director,
Coppin’s Campus
Infrastructure Team*

Challenges to Creating a Connected Campus

Legacy hardware requiring manual updates consumed hours every week and created blind spots in network performance. Limited visibility meant limited progress, and students felt it. Coppin State needed a modernization plan that delivered both performance and peace of mind.

The Connected Campus Strategy

C1 and Extreme Networks led a campus-wide modernization, replacing over **300 access switches**, upgrading the backbone from 40 Gbps to **100 Gbps**, and introducing the ExtremeCloud IQ Site Engine for **centralized control and automation**.

“Before, everything was manual. Now, we can manage everything from one centralized system, cutting time and complexity significantly.” Mohammed explains.



Results Faculty and Students Can Feel

- **50-60% reduction** in network management time
- Edge uplinks upgraded from **10 Gbps** → **25 Gbps**
- **Smart classrooms** and AV/IP systems now fully supported
- Data center and backbone operating at **100 Gbps capacity**

Three Takeaways for Campus Network Leaders

- 1. Automate early, scale easily.** Centralized management frees IT to focus on strategy, not maintenance.
- 2. Invest in visibility.** Knowing your network health in real time turns reactivity into enhanced resiliency.
- 3. Partner for execution.** Collaboration with experts ensures speed, precision, and successful delivery from plan to production.

Bottom line: Coppin State's network transformation proves that modernization is more than an upgrade—it's an investment in student success. Ready to modernize your own campus? C1 delivers the strategy, expertise, and partnership to help your campus achieve the same.

From Legacy to Lightning Speed: A Fiber Future for KSU

Founded in 1886, **Kentucky State University** is a public historically Black university in Frankfort with a proud legacy of preparing students for leadership and lifelong learning. To sustain that mission in a digital era, the university needed a modern network foundation—and its 20-year-old multimode fiber backbone was standing in the way. Recognizing that connectivity is now central to both access and equity in education, KSU set out to rebuild its network from the ground up.

"This investment in our network infrastructure is a critical step forward for KSU," says **Wendy Dixie, Vice President of Information Technology**. "It positions us as a leading institution in technology advancements."



*Wendy Dixie,
Vice President of
Information Technology,
Kentucky State University*

High Performance Connectivity Required

Students and faculty faced inconsistent connectivity and slow speeds, especially in residence halls and older academic buildings. With growing demand for streaming, remote access, and IoT devices, reliability wasn't optional; it was essential.

The Roadmap to Resilient Performance

C1 designed a new architecture using **single-mode fiber** and five redundant hub sites to strengthen reliability. The team deployed **100+ switches**, **800+ wireless access points**, and **85,000 feet of new fiber**, giving KSU enterprise-grade bandwidth and redundancy.

"We understood that to be resilient, to be available 99.99% of the time, we must build an environment and infrastructure that supports that" Dixie explains.





Outcomes That Inspire Confidence

- **3,900% increase** in inter-building bandwidth (1 Gbps → 40 Gbps+)
- **220% increase** in Wi-Fi coverage campus-wide
- **Outages eliminated**, network stability restored
- Two **months ahead** of project schedule

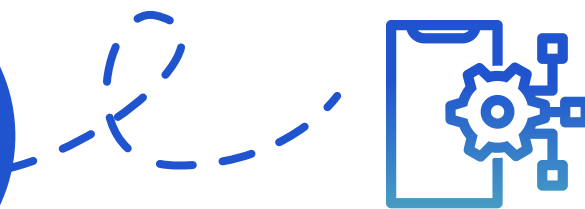
Three Takeaways for IT Modernization Teams

- 1. Design for resilience from the start.** The removal of single points of failure quickly pays off in uptime, performance, and peace of mind.
- 2. Plan for insatiable bandwidth appetites.** You'll never regret having excess capacity today—it ensures performance for the ever-increasing number of devices, applications, and digital experiences on campus.
- 3. Partner for project success.** The right collaboration turns complex infrastructure upgrades into scalable, on-time, and on-budget transformations.

Bottom line: KSU's fiber transformation shows that when connectivity strengthens, so does the campus community. Ready to lay the foundation for your campus' digital future? C1 brings the engineering depth and execution strength to build future-ready infrastructure at scale.



From Static to Seamless: Reimagining Communication for a Hybrid Campus



With campuses spread across northern Colorado, **Aims Community College** serves more than 8,000 students with a commitment to accessibility and innovation. That commitment was tested when the pandemic hit, and the college's on-premises phone system couldn't keep up.

"The move to Avaya Cloud Office was a significant contributor to our seamless move to remote services," recalls **Brad Yoder, CIO/CTO at Aims**. "It will be a key service as we continue with our hybrid environment and new telework policy."



*Brad Yoder, CIO/CTO,
Aims Community
College*

The Hybrid Hurdle

Aims' legacy Avaya PBX system couldn't scale for hybrid operations. Each line change or new extension required manual intervention from a single telecom specialist. As demand for flexibility grew, inefficiency followed.

A Cloud Office Revolution

C1 partnered with Avaya and RingCentral® to deploy Avaya Cloud Office®, **uniting calling, messaging, and meetings** into one platform accessible from any device. Within eight weeks, **650 staff** were migrated with **zero downtime**.

"Every person on our team knows the system inside and out, and now we're all equally accessible regardless of location," Rhonda Johnson, Director, Network and Telecom for IT explains.



The Results: Freedom to Focus

- **30% reduction** in telecom management workload
- Cost-neutral migration with **increased capability**
- 650 users migrated in **under two months**
- **Seamless** hybrid communication for staff and faculty

Three Takeaways for Hybrid Campus Innovators

- 1. Simplify to scale.** Unified platforms reduce maintenance while enhancing experience.
- 2. Cloud equals continuity.** When work moves off campus, systems should follow seamlessly.
- 3. User adoption matters.** Technology's success hinges on ease of use, not just uptime.

Bottom line: Aims proved that flexibility and focus can coexist when technology meets teamwork. Ready to simplify how your campus connects? C1 helps colleges modernize collaboration platforms to boost efficiency and faculty engagement.



Beyond the Textbook: Building Cybersecurity Leaders for Tomorrow



Located in Houston, **Texas Southern University (TSU)** is one of the nation's largest historically Black universities, offering over 120 academic programs across nine schools and colleges. Known for community impact and opportunity, TSU wanted to prepare students for a fast-growing field: cybersecurity.

"What excites us about this program is that it goes far beyond theory," says **Dr. Claudius Claiborne, Acting Dean of the Jesse H. Jones School of Business**. "With C1's partnership, our students are learning on the same equipment and workflows they'll see on day one in the workforce."



*Dr. Claudius Claiborne,
Acting Dean, Jesse
H. Jones School of
Business, Texas Southern
University*

Expanding a Proven Model

Building on the success of its Future Bankers Leadership Program, TSU sought to replicate its experiential learning model for cybersecurity, blending classroom instruction with mentorship and real-world applications.

From Classroom to Career

C1 partnered with TSU to create a **state-of-the-art Cybersecurity Lab** equipped with Cisco **networking gear, firewalls, and monitoring tools**. Students shadow C1 engineers, complete paid internships, and **graduate with industry certifications**.

"Every time I meet with these students, I'm impressed by how well-prepared and confident they are," Dr. Claiborne says.



Results That Resonate

- Cybersecurity Lab **launched and operational**
- **New degree program** added to the Business School
- Students **earning certifications** before graduation

Three Takeaways for Academic Technology Leaders

- 1. Link learning to real-life.** Industry collaboration bridges the gap between coursework and careers.
- 2. Experience Identifies Passion.** Through hands-on experience, students can identify a passion that is also a career.
- 3. Replicate success across disciplines.** This model applies easily to other career-oriented programs, bridging academic learning with real-world application.

Bottom line: TSU and C1 are proving that cybersecurity education thrives where classroom meets career. Ready to build your own lab for the future of learning? C1 designs, builds, and supports workforce-aligned learning environments that prepare graduates for in-demand careers.

Ready to see how colleges and universities are modernizing the student experience through technology?

Get the details about how these institutions are powering learning through technology-based innovation and partnership with C1:

- [Coppin State University](#)
- [Kentucky State University](#)
- [Aims Community College](#)
- [Texas Southern University](#)



Ready to power your campus with enterprise-grade IT?

Let's talk about how technology can deliver a connected experience for your campus.

contactus@onec1.com

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