



# Strategy for a Safer Campus

**A FRAMEWORK FOR CAMPUS LEADERS**





# Small Campuses Need Better Emergency Response Than Apps & Desk Buttons

## Bottom Line Up Front

When emergency response time averages 8-12 minutes using current campus safety tools, seconds matter. For emergency managers at smaller institutions where you might be the only trained responder on duty, outdated panic buttons and mobile panic button apps create dangerous gaps that compromise your ability to protect students and staff.

It's mid-afternoon at a small regional technical school when a student collapses in the welding lab. Cell service is spotty on this part of campus, and no one thinks to use the campus safety app to request help. The instructor runs to the administrative office to hit the fixed panic button before rushing back to the scene. Unfortunately, campus police respond to the button location—not the emergency. Minutes pass while they search classrooms, and the student lies without medical attention.

You've seen this before. As an emergency professional at a smaller institution—at a time when emergency alerts have grown 45% growth (AY23-24 to AY24-25)—you know every second matters when you respond to a request for help. Yet wearable panic button alerts cut response time to seconds rather than minutes. For medical emergencies at institutions where you might be the only trained responder on duty, those seconds determine outcomes.

**The truth is, yesterday's tools are no longer adequate to meet today's safety needs.**

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## Your Current Reality: Managing Safety With Inadequate Tools

Walk into any community college, technical college, trade school, or small campus today and you'll find the standard safety toolkit resources ...

### Fixed Panic Buttons: Limited Coverage, Critical Gaps

In a normal scenario, there are probably three to five hardwired devices positioned in key administrative buildings or main classrooms. When your entire campus consists of two buildings and a workshop complex, this might seem adequate—until an emergency happens in the student commons, nursing sim lab, or automotive bay where no buttons exist.

### Campus-Wide Notification Apps: High Maintenance, Low Adoption

With adoption rates hovering at 30%, campus safety apps fall short when seconds matter—stress makes it harder for students and staff to manage multi-step phone processes.

Safety applications that require IT support for deployment, ongoing maintenance, and extensive and frequent user training take too much time. With your IT director also managing academic technology—and your part-time help desk covering everything from Wi-Fi to classroom projectors—comprehensive app management becomes another competing priority.

### Legacy Alert Systems: Fragmented Communication

When systems underperform during an emergency, the cost is felt across already-stretched safety budgets.

Over time, multiple vendors were installed as budget allowed or grants required, resulting in a patchwork of disconnected systems. Your mass notification goes through one platform, panic buttons connect to another, and access control runs on a third system. None communicate with each other, leaving you coordinating emergencies across multiple interfaces.



## Why Current Campus Safety Systems Break Down

Traditional safety systems were never designed for your environment or the types of risks that contemporary institutions face. **Fixed panic buttons are usually tied to standard areas within campus buildings, but many incidents happen outside classrooms—in hallways, parking lots, and sports areas where no buttons exist.** And, as you know, emergencies don't happen only in designated zones.

Coordinating a response gets even harder when you're wearing multiple hats, as many safety officers at smaller institutions must do. They need tools that give them a clear picture of what's happening in real time, not fragmented systems that force them to check separate platforms to find the information they need.

### The Training Reality Check

"You train for the emergency, but when it happens, muscle memory takes over," explains James Perry, Chief of Police at West Georgia Technical College. Even with regular training, fumbling through an app in a high-stress emergency is not a dependable plan. "If the system isn't intuitive enough for someone in crisis to use instantly, it won't work when you need it."

### Budget Realities for Small Campuses

Every investment at your institution requires careful justification. Unlike large universities with dedicated safety budgets, your funding comes from competing priorities: academic programs, facility maintenance, technology upgrades, and student services.

### Your challenges likely include ...

- Writing grant applications for limited federal and state safety funding
- Navigating approval processes that require buy-in from academic leadership, facilities, IT, and administration—often people having lots of responsibilities
- Managing vendors that promise seamless integration but require dedicated IT support, ongoing training programs, and maintenance contracts that strain operating budgets

# Field Intelligence: What's Happening on Small Campuses

Smaller institutions may feel this problem more intensely if they don't have the extra staff and resources to make broken systems work.



## Adoption Challenges Reflect Resource Constraints

Unlike larger institutions with more resources, your safety education likely happens during already-packed faculty meetings or brief orientation sessions. When emergencies strike, faculty default to basic responses: calling 911 or looking for a colleague who can request help. Complex app procedures disappear under stress.



## Infrastructure Limitations Create Vulnerabilities

Your campus Wi-Fi was designed for administrative needs and basic student internet access, not emergency communication loads. When multiple users attempt to access safety apps simultaneously during a crisis, network congestion can crash the system precisely when you need it most.



## Staffing Realities Affect Response Capacity

During evening hours, weekends, or between shifts, you might have minimal faculty and staff coverage. Emergency systems need to work when you're operating with skeleton crews.



## Consequences of Poor Emergency Response

Coverage gaps at smaller institutions create disproportionate exposure because you lack the backup systems and redundant staffing that larger campuses maintain.



## Geographic Vulnerabilities Are Magnified

Emergency incidents can, and often do, occur outside classrooms—in areas like welding labs, automotive bays, health sciences clinical facilities, and dormitory complexes that typically operate without emergency communication infrastructure. When incidents happen in these spaces, response coordination depends on someone running to find help—losing critical seconds.

Unlike large universities with campus police stations and multiple response teams, your emergency response might involve one officer, local EMS, and you—coordinating from wherever you happen to be on campus.

**Systems that don't provide precise location information and immediate incident details compromise your ability to deploy limited resources effectively.**





Your mission of providing safe, accessible education and career training requires maintaining community confidence in campus safety.

## Technology Gaps Create Response Delays

Campus safety apps fail when networks become overloaded, but smaller institutions may lack the redundant infrastructure to maintain connectivity during emergencies. Your campus might have one primary internet connection and limited cellular coverage in certain buildings. When communication systems fail, you lose contact with both responders and the campus community.

### Support Limitations Hurt Readiness

System failures often remain unresolved for longer periods. Disconnected platforms increase the chances of breakdowns going unnoticed until they disrupt response in a critical moment. Complex safety system troubleshooting becomes another competing priority during critical periods.

### Safety Has Mission-Critical Impact

According to a BestColleges survey, 60% of students say campus safety is a factor in the school they choose. Regional campuses, community colleges, and trade schools serve communities that depend on accessible, local education options.

Timely response to safety incidents helps build community trust, support enrollment, and uphold institutional reputation. Parents and students evaluate institutional commitment to safety based on emergency response capability—not just the presence of safety technology.



## Wearable Panic Buttons: The Future of Campus Safety

Here's the reality: It's time to move beyond wall-mounted buttons and mobile panic button apps.

Wearable panic button technology provides campus-wide coverage without requiring extensive infrastructure investment. Unlike fixed buttons that are only accessible in select locations, wearable devices move with faculty and staff throughout your campus—from specialized labs to remote parking areas.

# Key Advantages for Your Institution

## Independent Network Operation

These systems are designed to operate independently of campus Wi-Fi or cellular networks, reducing the risk of connectivity challenges that impact mobile-based solutions.

## Instant Location Intelligence

When someone activates a wearable device, emergency coordinators receive immediate location information and can deploy resources quickly, rather than coordinating blind responses across multiple systems.

## Integration Capabilities

Integrating with video systems or mapping technology gives you up-to-the-second intelligence needed to respond quickly while maintaining situational awareness.

## Minimal IT Burden

Especially for institutions operating with limited IT support, wearable systems require minimal technical maintenance while providing comprehensive coverage. They integrate with existing emergency response investments without requiring extensive training programs or complex user interfaces that fail under stress.



## Why Small Campuses Must Act Now

Current conditions create both urgency and opportunity for smaller institutions ready to move beyond fragmented safety response approaches:

### Federal Funding Opportunities

The federal government recognizes that community colleges, trade schools, and regional campuses serve vital educational missions, often with limited resources. While grants are available to help improve campus safety, the application process is often complex, and many smaller institutions may lack the staff or capacity to meet filing deadlines and compliance requirements.

### Regulatory Compliance Demands Scalable Solutions

Enhanced Clery Act and Title IX requirements demand documented improvements in safety that current fragmented systems cannot provide. Accreditation bodies increasingly factor safety preparedness into institutional evaluations, affecting your ability to maintain program certifications and student financial aid eligibility.

### Competitive Positioning Affects Trust

Peer institutions are implementing integrated safety solutions that provide campus-wide coverage, work independently of network infrastructure, and deliver precise location information to first responders. Students and parents compare safety standards when choosing between similar programs and institutions.



## Take Action: Your Next Steps

**Bottom Line:** Your mission is to protect students, faculty and staff, and your campus community while maintaining the accessible education that smaller institutions provide. The technology exists, funding is accessible, and the regulatory environment demands measurable improvements.

Not sure where to start? We're here to help. [Schedule a demo](#) to see CENTEGIX® in action. We'll also provide hands-on help to build your business case and find funding.

For more information about comprehensive campus safety solutions designed specifically for community colleges, trade schools, and small institutions, visit [CENTEGIX Higher Education Solutions](#).

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## Checklist: 5 Warning Signs Your Campus Safety Plan Is Out of Date

### Bottom Line Up Front

A lot has changed in the world of campus safety—and fast. Outdated procedures, limited communication tools, or manual reporting systems can make it harder to coordinate an effective emergency response when seconds matter.

Campus emergency incidents have increased 45% year-over-year (AY23-24 to AY24-25), yet many institutions continue operating with safety plans designed for a different era. As an emergency manager, campus safety director, or campus administrator, you need systems that work reliably across your entire campus—not just in designated areas.

## Here are five red flags that your current safety plan may no longer be up to the challenge:



### 1. Your Alert System Has Dead Zones

**Why It Matters:** Parking lots, stairwells, and satellite buildings lack coverage when faculty or staff need to send an alert. At West Georgia Technical College, for example, some buildings were previously part of a World War II bomb manufacturing plant with lead-lined roofs that make cell phone service “very difficult to say the least,” according to Chief of Police James Perry.

**What You Need:** An always-available platform that works campus-wide, delivering audio, visual, desktop, and mobile notifications without depending on Wi-Fi or cellular networks.

**The Reality Check:** Can your current system reach every classroom, lab, parking area, and building on your campus? If not, you have communication coverage gaps that could prove critical during an emergency.



### 2. Fixed Panic Buttons Are Your First Line of Defense

**Why It Matters:** Fixed buttons under desks or counters can't help if the person in danger can't get to it or has to leave in a hurry. Many emergency incidents occur outside classrooms, in hallways, parking lots, and sports areas where fixed panic buttons typically aren't located.

**What You Need:** Wearable panic buttons for faculty and staff—no personal phones required and no searching for wall-mounted devices. One button activates a response.

**The Reality Check:** When was the last time you audited where your panic buttons are located versus where emergencies actually happen on your campus?



### 3. You Can't See Precisely Where Help Is Needed

**Why It Matters:** Without detailed location data, responders waste time figuring out which building, floor, or room to go to. This is especially critical at smaller institutions where you might be the only trained responder on duty.

**What You Need:** Real-time alert location information tied to specific rooms and buildings—automatically displayed for responders through dynamic digital mapping.

**The Reality Check:** In your last emergency drill, how long did it take responders to locate the “incident”? Every minute spent searching is one less spent helping.



### 4. You're Still Using Static PDF Maps

**Why It Matters:** Floor plans go out of date fast—and you need to file a ticket (and pay) to make simple edits. During an emergency, you need current, accurate information about building layouts, safety equipment locations, and evacuation routes.

**What You Need:** A digital map of your campus with real-time ability to update safety assets and integrates with your other safety technology.

**The Reality Check:** When did you last update your emergency maps? Are they accurate for current building configurations and safety equipment locations?



### 5. You Don't Track Visitors and Contractors

**Why It Matters:** Paper sign-ins and generic badges can't prevent unauthorized wandering or assist in post-incident investigations. With 97% of students actively considering their safety while on campus, visible visitor management contributes to an overall sense of safety.

**What You Need:** A digital visitor management system with ID verification, real-time locating, and automated audit logs.

**The Reality Check:** In an emergency, could you quickly account for all visitors and contractors on your campus? Do you know where they are in real time?



## Does Any of This Sound Familiar?

If you recognized your institution in any of these scenarios, you're not alone. Many smaller campuses are operating with safety systems that were designed for simpler times and different challenges.

The good news? Modern campus safety technology can address all of these gaps while working within your budget and IT capabilities.

## What Modern Campus Safety Looks Like



### Comprehensive Coverage

Systems that work everywhere on campus, from lead-lined domes to outdoor areas, without relying on cellular or Wi-Fi networks to send an alert.



### Immediate Response

Emergency coordinators receive immediate alerts with precise location information, enabling them to deploy resources effectively.



### Real-time Intelligence

Digital mapping shows responders exactly where help is needed and where safety assets are located.



### Simple Operation

Staff and faculty can request help with a single button—no apps to find, no complex procedures to remember under stress.



### Complete Accountability

Know who's on campus, where they are, and how to find them during an emergency.



## Take Action: Upgrade Your Campus Safety Plan

Your students, faculty, and staff deserve a safety platform designed for today's challenges—not yesterday's assumptions.

Ready to close the gaps in your campus safety plan?

Not to worry—we're here to help. [Schedule a demo](#) to see CENTEGIX® in action and get hands-on help to build your business case.

For more information about comprehensive campus safety solutions designed specifically for community colleges, trade schools, and small institutions, visit [CENTEGIX Higher Education Solutions](#).

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## Feeling Safe On Campus: Why Campus Safety Is Now a Mental Health Priority

When 82% of college students are concerned about their personal safety and 70% report mental health struggles, campus safety and mental wellness are inseparable. Emergency managers and safety directors must understand that investing in comprehensive frameworks for safety directly impacts student retention, academic performance, and institutional reputation.

All students deserve to feel safe while on campus. But in today's environment, maintaining that sense of safety is more complex than ever—and students are feeling the impact.

According to the Clery Center, 82% of college students are concerned about their personal safety, with 97% actively considering safety while on campus. The reasons are varied—from rising gun-related tragedies to widespread media coverage of campus unrest, even when it's at schools the students don't personally attend.

### The Growing Mental Health Burden

Concern about physical safety can have a big impact on student mental health. In fact, student mental health is a leading short-term concern for 92% of college presidents, underscoring the urgency of addressing these interconnected issues.

That's why institutions are increasingly interested in creating comprehensive plans that integrate physical safety with psychological well-being.



## Why Safety Impacts Mental Health

Traditionally, higher education leaders have viewed physical safety and mental health separately. Not anymore. Whether it's direct exposure to violence or merely its perception, both can heighten anxiety, trigger PTSD symptoms, and lead to absenteeism and social withdrawal among students.

When students feel unsafe, anxiety and depression increase, academic engagement decreases, and absenteeism rises.

### The Numbers Tell the Story

The American College Health Association data reveals sobering statistics:

**20%**

of students  
experience serious  
psychological distress

**35%**

of students were  
diagnosed with anxiety

**46%**

have been diagnosed  
with a mental illness

When safety concerns undermine mental health, institutions experience decreased enrollment, lower retention rates, and reputational harm.

## Different Campuses, Different Safety Concerns

Higher educational campus environments differ significantly from controlled K-12 settings. Although they face many of the same safety concerns, higher learning environments operate as complex ecosystems with multiple entry points and diverse populations.

Campuses face unique challenges when it comes to balancing safety with their mission to educate students.



### Community Colleges

Commuter students spend limited hours on campus, making consistent safety perceptions challenging.



### Technical or Specialized Institutions

Must balance specialized equipment and laboratory safety with students' psychological well-being.



### Smaller Campuses

Often face limited safety resources while maintaining welcoming community atmospheres.

You CAN help students regain that sense of safety. Innovations in safety technology are leading the way.



## Using Technology to Enhance Safety and Mental Health

Here's what many campus leaders miss: Technology isn't just about stopping bad things from happening. It's about helping students feel safe enough to focus on their education.

The right technology supports a culture of awareness and rapid response, reinforcing a sense of safety that's essential for student mental health.

### Creating a Sense of Safety Without Creating Fortresses

Both visible and invisible security measures that don't make campus feel like a prison allow students to see that their institution is actively protecting them. This isn't about creating a fortress—it's about creating an environment where students feel supported and protected.

That requires a multi-layered approach, encompassing:

#### Communication Tools

- **Emergency notification platforms** that allow first responders to immediately coordinate responses, even when cellular or Wi-Fi networks are down
- **Anonymous reporting systems** for threats and mental health concerns

#### Personal Safety Devices

- **Wearable panic buttons** that work anywhere on campus—even where network connectivity is unreliable
- **Access control systems** balancing security and access control with campus openness

#### Physical Security Measures

- **Strategic camera placements** in parking areas, entrances, and common spaces
- **Well-lit pathways** and visible emergency call stations

#### Reliable Infrastructure

- **Independent emergency notification networks** that are separate from regular cellular or Wi-Fi networks



# Implementing Comprehensive Safety Frameworks

Most campus safety initiatives fail by attempting too much at once or lacking appropriate involvement. Successful implementation relies on smart planning, inclusive teams, and measurable outcomes.

## 1 Build Your Team

You cannot succeed alone.

Include diverse perspectives:

- Student government, faculty and staff, student services, facilities
- Community partners (mental health providers, law enforcement)
- Administrators (finance, IT, communications)

## 2 Start with Assessment

Before investing, understand your current safety landscape:

- Campus safety audits
- Student perception surveys
- Risk assessments
- Resource inventories

## 3 Track and Measure Outcomes

Improvement depends on measurable data:

- Regular safety perception surveys
- Mental health service utilization rates
- Academic performance data
- Retention statistics
- Response time analysis
- Incident report trends

## 4 Make the Business Case

Use evidence to secure ongoing funding:

- Peer institution case studies
- Cost-benefit analyses comparing prevention investments vs. crisis response
- Documentation of improvements
- Federal grant opportunities (e.g., Bipartisan Safer Communities Act)



# Overcoming Common Implementation Obstacles

## Budget Constraints

Budgets are tight, but phased implementations can demonstrate success quickly while progressing toward comprehensive solutions. Federal grants offer resources for evidence-based proposals, while shared service models provide smaller institutions with access to specialized resources through consortiums or partnerships.

## Cultural Resistance

Address ingrained thinking through change management focused on positive student outcomes rather than restrictive measures. Transparent communication about safety goals and regular community input build support without sacrificing campus accessibility.

### Building Your Path Forward

The evidence is clear: safety and mental health are inseparable in higher education environments.

Students who feel safe on campus demonstrate:

- Better mental health outcomes
- Higher academic performance
- Stronger institutional engagement

For emergency managers, campus safety directors, and institutional leaders, investing in comprehensive frameworks for safety that address both campus safety and psychological well-being allows them to better serve students while strengthening their competitive position in today's complex higher education landscape.





## Take Action: Your Next Steps

Ready to create a campus environment where students can thrive?

Not sure where to start improving campus safety? We're here to help. [Schedule a demo](#) to see CENTEGIX® in action. We'll also provide hands-on help to build your business case.

For more information about comprehensive campus safety solutions designed specifically for community colleges, trade schools, and small institutions, visit [CENTEGIX Higher Education Solutions](#).

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# Building a Business Case for a Better Safety Solution

## A Practical Guide for Safety Leaders in Higher Education

### The Stakes Have Never Been Higher

Even as risks grow, tight budgets mean campus safety leaders must justify life-saving investments with data, metrics, and tangible return on investment. **This guide shows you how to build the business case that gets critical safety protocols approved.**



### Section 1: Define the Problem

#### Focus on What Matters to Your Institution



Student and Campus  
Community Safety



Institutional  
Reputation



Liability  
Exposure



Operational  
Resilience

### Use Clear, Relevant Data to Show Urgency

# 60%

of students say campus safety is a factor in the school they choose

# 82%

of college students are concerned about their personal safety

# 97%

actively consider their safety while on campus

# 41,801

reported criminal offenses across 10,307 campuses

#### Use Your Campus Data to Show:

- **Number** of alerts that address everyday incidents like medical or behavioral emergencies
- **Percent** of incidents that occur outside classrooms—in hallways, parking lots, and sports areas

#### Assess Emergency Response Weak Points

- Outdated campus maps
- Connectivity gaps
- Campus response times
- Adoption rates of alert apps
- Siloed safety platforms

#### Show the Effects of Status Quo

Example: “Over the past 12 months, response time to campus emergencies has exceeded six (6) minutes—twice our peer benchmark.”

## Section 2: Propose a Targeted Solution

Describe the initiative you're proposing—what it is, how it works, and why it's the best solution. Compare multiple options and explain your recommendation:

Feature	CENTEGIX® Safety Platform™	Fixed Panic Buttons	Campus Safety Apps
Full-Campus Coverage (without Wi-Fi or cell service)	✓	✗ Not provided	⚠ Maybe
Precise Location Info	✓	✗ Not provided	⚠ Maybe
Situational Alert Levels	✓	⚠ Maybe	✗ Not provided

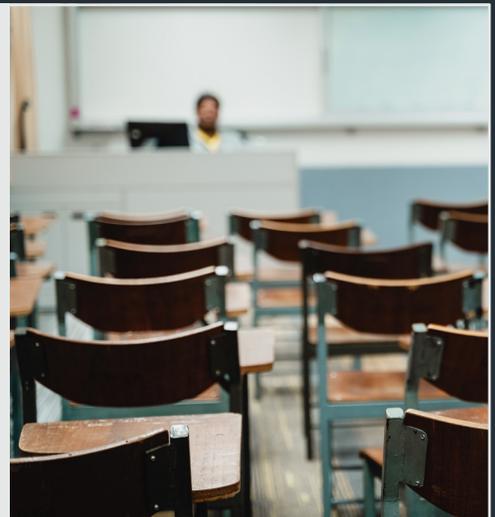
### Stakeholder Insights

“We have a campus alert app, but on average 30% of students, faculty, and staff at college campuses download them.”

**Campus IT Director**

“Recently, we’ve been averaging about two students a week with medical issues, and we’ve had to call ambulances in. Our staff has gotten so comfortable that they’re hitting it [the badge button] now ... Our response time has been in seconds, not minutes, and it’s been fantastic for us.”

**James Perry, Chief of Police at West Georgia Technical College**



## Section 3: Detail Costs and Funding Sources

### Provide A Full Cost Estimate

- Equipment or software
- Training or personnel
- Ongoing maintenance or renewal fees

### Funding Sources

- FEMA Emergency Management Grants
- State Campus Safety Infrastructure Funds
- Emergency Communications Programs (via CISA)
- Federal Research and Resiliency Grants
- Joint Applications with Local Emergency Services

*See Appendix for Specific Programs*

## Section 4: Show Expected Benefits

- Risk mitigation and compliance enhancement
- Tangible campus safety improvement
- Shortened emergency response times
- Greater student and parent trust
- Reduced staff and faculty turnover and burnout

TIP: Tie your outcomes to broader campus priorities (student affairs initiatives, recruitment, retention, student sense of belonging, Title IX).

## Section 5: Gain Stakeholder Support

- Identify who is impacted by the proposal and why it matters across your organization
- Partner with stakeholders who may benefit (e.g. student services, IT, local law enforcement)
- Include student, faculty, and staff testimonials, safety survey data, or DEI-aligned benefits to support your case

## Section 6: Prepare Executive Summary

- Summarize the full business case into a short document with: Problem > Solution > Cost > Benefits > Call to Action
- Include visuals: bar charts, before/after scenarios, a 12-month roadmap.

TIP: Anticipate objections (e.g., cost, complexity, privacy concerns): Address them up front in an appendix or FAQ.



## Build Your Case With Confidence

CENTEGIX® helps you secure leadership buy-in with:

- Proven performance stats
- Funding guidance
- Peer references from institutions like yours

[Get Help Building Your Safety Proposal](#)

## Section 7: Additional Funding Opportunities

### Federal Funding Sources

#### 1. U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)

- **Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)**—Programs like the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) and Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program can support campus law enforcement
- **Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office**—Offers funding for hiring officers, de-escalation training, school safety, and technology upgrades. COPS School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP) is one relevant program
- **Websites:** [bja.ojp.gov](http://bja.ojp.gov), [cops.usdoj.gov](http://cops.usdoj.gov)

#### 2. U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

- Through FEMA, offers grants such as the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)
- While often focused on broader jurisdictions, campus public safety departments can sometimes partner with local emergency management agencies for access
- **Website:** [fema.gov/grants](http://fema.gov/grants)

#### 3. Campus Safety Grants

- Previously available under the Grants to Reduce Violent Crimes Against Women on Campus Program via the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), part of DOJ
- OVW still offers **campus-based grants** to address sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking
- **Website:** [justice.gov/ovw](http://justice.gov/ovw)

### State and Local Grant Sources

- Many **state homeland safety** or **criminal justice agencies** offer localized funding—often pass-through grants from federal sources like DHS or DOJ
- State **departments of education** or **public safety** sometimes administer safety improvement funds (e.g., for threat assessment or training)
- Some states have **school/campus safety-specific funding pools** in response to high-profile incidents



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## West Georgia Technical College Takes Campus Safety Seriously and Saves Lives Because of It

West Georgia Technical College serves nearly 10,000 students across five main and four satellite campuses. These campuses span seven counties in western Georgia, creating a nearly two-hour drive from the northernmost to the southernmost campus. The facilities include a mix of modern and historical buildings, such as a former World War II-era bomb manufacturing plant with lead-lined roofs. These geographical and structural differences presents unique challenges in communication and safety management. WGTC employs about 600 faculty and staff, including adjuncts, and operates its own certified police department through the state of Georgia.

WGTC has specific safety concerns as a rural college. While they do not have to account for a substantial amount of vehicle or pedestrian traffic, as an urban campus would, they do have to monitor the exteriors of their many buildings and the surrounding outdoor areas across an expansive campus. "The faster you can know what's going on outside your buildings, the better you can control what goes on on the inside," shares James Perry, Chief of Police for West Georgia Technical College.

West Georgia Technical College takes a holistic, multilayered approach to safety on their campuses. This includes:

- **CrisisAlert™ Wearable Panic Buttons:** Allows all faculty and staff to request help during an emergency and works when transitioning between campuses.
- **Police Presence:** Officers stationed at all main campuses, covering operations from 7 am to 10 pm.
- **Safety Team:** Designated safety team members available to relay important information.
- **Extensive Surveillance:** Over 600 cameras that provide visibility across campuses.
- **Regular Safety Meetings:** Frequent reviews and discussions to assess and improve safety measures.
- **Visitor Management:** New policies that require visitors to check in with campus police and wear badges, enhancing control and monitoring.

WGTC is continually seeking to enhance campus safety. In addition to these established efforts, near term enhancements include access control technology and robust digital mapping services for improved situational awareness and coordination with first responders.

### Customer Highlight

- ▶ West Georgia Technical College takes a holistic, multi-layered approach to safety on their campuses that includes wearable panic buttons, a regular police presence, a safety team and regular safety meetings, extensive surveillance, and a visitor management policy.
- ▶ Initially, some faculty and staff were skeptical about the CrisisAlert system. However, real-time, unplanned tests and the response to unexpected emergencies helped convert skeptics into believers, spreading positive word-of-mouth among the staff.
- ▶ WGTC has experienced numerous medical emergencies where the CrisisAlert system proved invaluable, including an incident where a staff member fell ill and became incapacitated in her office. With her CrisisAlert badge, she was able to request help before losing consciousness.

**"Our response time has been in the seconds, not in the minutes. And it's been fantastic for us."**

James Perry, Chief of Police at West Georgia Technical College and CENTEGIX customer since 2021

## Positive Experiences Have Proven CrisisAlert's Effectiveness

Initially, some faculty and staff were skeptical about the CrisisAlert system, with concerns about its effectiveness given the age and composition of some of the buildings on campus. Initial hesitancy and learning curve were noted, but ongoing training has built familiarity and comfort with the system. "I guess you could call it a learning curve, of getting past the hesitancy with some people," Chief Perry mentioned. Some doubted the system's effectiveness, saying, "I just don't know that it'll work. I don't believe it." However, real-time, unplanned tests demonstrated its reliability. For example, during a demonstration between Chief Perry and faculty in a hallway with poor cell service, CrisisAlert notified responders in just seconds, convincing the skeptical staff member. "I reached over and hit [my CrisisAlert badge] and in less than two seconds, my phone was blaring," said Chief Perry. "One of the other officers called me on the radio. 'Are you okay?' **And [the staff member] looked at me and said, 'Wow, we're convinced.'**" These successful demonstrations helped convert skeptics into believers, spreading positive word-of-mouth among the staff. Staff members now use the system confidently, with positive feedback and successful usage in emergencies.

Not only that, but WGTC has faced incidents where escapees from nearby jails have caused campus lockdowns. One incident in particular occurred when an inmate escaped from the nearby county jail and ran directly into the middle of the campus. This situation required an immediate lockdown to ensure the safety of students, faculty, and staff. A similar incident in Troup County also prompted a lockdown due to a prisoner escape.

In another incident, WGTC had to implement a soft lockdown across all campuses for an entire day. The precautionary measure taken that day reflects the college's proactive and cautious approach to potential threats. The decision to enforce a campus-wide soft lockdown demonstrates WGTC's commitment to safety and preparedness, ensuring that all campuses were unified under a coordinated response plan.

All of these incidents underscore the critical need for robust emergency response systems and protocols at WGTC. The effective handling of these situations showcases the importance of preparedness, rapid response, and coordinated efforts in maintaining campus safety. The use of lockdowns and shelter-in-place measures reflects WGTC's capability to respond rapidly to external threats, thereby promoting the protection of the entire campus community.



**"I made a phone call and the response was fantastic. We knew within a couple weeks we wanted to deal with CENTEGIX. So it was a great fit and we've had great results with it and excellent customer service. I've got to tell you, it's the best customer service of anybody that we deal with."**

James Perry, Chief of Police  
at West Georgia  
Technical College

## Medical Emergency Demonstrates Life-Saving Impact

WGTC has experienced numerous medical emergencies where the CrisisAlert system proved invaluable. One particularly compelling incident involved a staff member who arrived on campus already seemingly unwell, Chief Perry had noted that morning. They spoke briefly, and as he left her office and headed down the hall, she toppled from her chair and collapsed under her desk, unable to reach a phone to call for help. Luckily, she had the wherewithal to press the button on her CrisisAlert badge before becoming incapacitated.

The immediate notification and response facilitated by CrisisAlert allowed the nearest available staff member—Chief Perry, just down the hall—to quickly identify the emergency. “I recognized she was in distress. So the minute CrisisAlert went off, it took me a second to look at the phone, recognize the name, and then I just sprinted right down the hallway to her office where I found her,” Chief Perry explained. The system’s rapid alert enabled this prompt notification and response, which is critical in medical emergencies where seconds matter.

Upon arriving at the scene, Chief Perry was able to respond rapidly. “I was able to render aid immediately, radio my dispatch officer to get an ambulance en route...and kept her comfortable,” he recounted. This rapid response highlights one of the major benefits of CrisisAlert: its ability to facilitate quick and effective communication and coordination during emergencies. The dispatch officer was notified instantly, allowing emergency medical services to be called without delay.

The benefits of rapid response in medical emergencies cannot be overstated. Quick intervention can significantly improve outcomes by stabilizing the patient, preventing further complications, and reducing the time it takes for them to receive professional medical care. In this case, the timely response ensured that the staff member received the necessary medical attention promptly. “[First responders] were there within just a few minutes and transported her to the hospital, where she stayed for several days, but she did come back to work. She did thank me, and she was very happy with the fact that CrisisAlert worked.”

This incident underscores the importance of having a reliable emergency alert system in place. CrisisAlert’s ability to provide immediate notification of an incident with precise location details helps make certain that emergencies are quickly identified and rapidly addressed by the nearest responders. This capability is crucial in preventing situations from worsening and in providing immediate assistance to those in need. The staff member’s successful recovery and return to work demonstrate the life-saving potential of such a system. The gratitude expressed by the staff member further highlights the positive impact that CrisisAlert has had on the safety and well-being of WGTC’s community.

**“Here recently, we’re averaging probably two students a week that are having medical issues and we’ve had to call ambulances in. Our staff have gotten so comfortable that they’re really hitting it now...Our response time has been in the seconds, not in the minutes. And it’s been fantastic for us.”**

James Perry, Chief of Police at  
West Georgia Technical College

## A Multi-layered Approach to Safety That Accommodates the Unique Challenges of College Campuses

Chief Perry emphasized the importance of a proactive and comprehensive approach to campus safety. “[One of the buildings on] our main campus...was a World War II bomb manufacturing plant. The roof itself is lined with lead and it makes cell phone service very difficult to say the least, and I don’t mind going ahead and jumping in and saying **CENTEGIX has worked fantastic in that building.**”

“I made a phone call and the response was fantastic. And we knew within a couple weeks we wanted to deal with CENTEGIX. So it was a great fit and we’ve had great results with it and excellent customer service.” Exceptional customer service from CENTEGIX has ensured a smooth implementation and ongoing satisfaction with the product. The system’s rapid response time, often within seconds, has been crucial during emergencies. **“Our response time has been in the seconds, not in the minutes. And it’s been fantastic for us.”**

The simplicity and convenience of the CrisisAlert wearable panic button make it easy for staff to adopt and use effectively. “These things are just great to have around your neck.” CrisisAlert’s functionality across various campus areas, indoors and outdoors, highlights its comprehensive coverage. “We’ve had good usage of it in the buildings, outside in parking lots, and on some of our training ranges, which are outdoors,” shared Chief Perry.

WGTC’s experience demonstrates the importance of a reliable and effective safety system at all colleges and universities. The frequent successful uses of CrisisAlert in medical emergencies showcase its reliability and critical role in ensuring student and staff safety. “We’re averaging probably two students a week that are having medical issues and we’ve had to call ambulances in. Our staff have gotten so comfortable that they’re really hitting it now.”

CrisisAlert’s reliability, rapid notifications, exceptional customer service, ease of use, proven effectiveness in emergencies, and integration capabilities make it the most effective, comprehensive solution for enhancing campus safety and security. Additionally, its encouragement of a proactive safety culture further solidifies it as the leading choice for campus safety solutions.

For more information on campus safety technology solutions, check out CENTEGIX’s website at [www.centegix.com/higher-education](http://www.centegix.com/higher-education).

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