

# How to Improve Cellular Signal at Colleges and Universities

Cellular connectivity is as important on a university campus as it is on a hospital campus. Faculty and students need to connect for academic purposes, and cellular service also enhances campus safety. Unfortunately, colleges and universities can't always provide consistently strong cellular signal for students, faculty and staff.

**Schools struggle with cellular connectivity for a few reasons, but the main culprits are infrastructure and capacity.** Modern colleges and universities are usually a combination of older and newer buildings, which include environmentally friendly construction. Each of these scenarios mean interference with radio frequency waves coming from the nearest cell tower. Traditional building materials such as steel, brick and concrete can all be cell-signal killers. But LEED-certified building materials, such as energy-efficient windows, can block signal even in newer buildings. Add in data-hungry students and faculty who rely on various networks for connectivity and it's a recipe for bad connections.

## WHAT SHOULD YOU DO WHEN YOUR UNIVERSITY NEEDS AND IMPROVED CELLULAR SIGNAL?

If you're a university administrator or IT manager with a cellular connectivity problem on your hands, there are a few different options you can consider in order to solve the problem and improve cellular signal on campus. Many schools turn to active distributed antenna systems (DAS). If your school boasts a large budget and can take the time to wait for installation, an active DAS can offer a strong solution to connectivity woes. Unfortunately, many school budgets are under pressure and an expensive and time-consuming active solution isn't the best option.

Instead, colleges, universities and even secondary schools should consider passive DAS cell phone signal boosters to enhance connectivity on campus. Instead of creating its own cellular signal, this type of signal booster is carrier-agnostic and captures existing signals from surrounding cell towers using rooftop donor antennas.



It then amplifies the weak signal, and distributes it strategically inside a building or around campus. These cell signal boosters offer:

- Financial savings
- A less-invasive installation process
- Reduced installation time
- Improved signal regardless of cellular network provider

## UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA IMPLEMENTS CELL SIGNAL BOOSTER TO IMPROVE CONNECTIVITY

Connectivity became a major problem at a newly updated science building at the University of Minnesota. Despite new modern construction and facilities, the building's connectivity left students and faculty feeling like they were stuck in the Stone Age.

The University's IT staff called connectivity experts from Konecta USA about a solution. The team quickly identified the building as a candidate for a WilsonPro cell signal booster, which uses passive DAS technology. The team began installation by placing a donor antenna on the roof of the building and running cable to a booster inside the building.

The quick installation — and no approval requirements — meant the building's new connectivity system could be up and running in a matter of days, rather than months. Campus students, as well as faculty and staff are now reaping the benefits of nearly flawless connectivity, which was achieved for a fraction of the price of competing booster solutions.