U of SC

Hewlett Packard Enterprise

aruba
a Hewlett Packard Enterprise company

> "In this environment, we couldn't even physically shake hands," said Chad Williams, President of PIER Group. "Our lead engineer couldn't prep equipment on campus, so we rented a banquet hall across the street."

35,000 STUDENTS

THE CHALLENGE

As the fall 2020 semester approached, leaders at the University of South Carolina (UofSC), the flagship university in the state, knew that they would need a major campus wireless infrastructure upgrade. Like most universities across the U.S., the pandemic ushered in a major shift to online classes and services, putting a much greater strain on existing wireless networks.

More than 35,000 students would be coming to campus, and they all needed the ability to work and social distance whenever possible.

> "We're committed to opening a safe environment for our students this fall, so they can focus on learning and earning their degree," said Dan Schumacher, Associate Vice President, Infrastructure, University of South Carolina Division of Information Technology. "They need to be able to work and study anywhere on campus and have the bandwidth for data-heavy activities, including video streaming and virtual collaboration."

THE SOLUTION

With an abbreviated timeline, PIER Group and Aruba, a Hewlett Packard Enterprise company, partnered with UofSC to design and execute a full installation of upgraded hardware and software. The team had to get creative when it came to readying and installing the equipment with a condensed timeline, such as leveraging resources in different time zones to find more cycles in a 24-hour period.

THE RESULTS

Working within COVID-19 guidelines, PIER Group installation teams were in-and-out of the residence halls in just six weeks, before anyone moved in, making it the fastest internet upgrade in the university's history.

Installation of
4,700+
network access points in residence halls

Better Security
and the ability to leverage dynamic network security