

NETGEAR and SDVoE power Harrisburg University's esports facility

Harrisburg University is breaking new ground with its award-winning esports varsity program, which is attracting some of the most talented students worldwide, while setting a new standard in this fast-evolving and exciting area of educational development.

Making the most of students' esports skills depends on providing them with the right equipment, including superior quality network connectivity to provide fast interactivity and excellent image quality.

Non-profit Harrisburg University (HU) is a leading science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) educational pioneer offering bachelor and graduate degree programs to a diverse student body from all over the world. Named by Corporate Livewire as the number-one STEM university in the United States, HU has around 200 full-time employees who support approximately six-and-a-half thousand students worldwide, around 400 of those either on the Philadelphia campus or housed in the Harrisburg area.

Integral to its mission to be an outstanding STEM university, HU has successfully positioned itself at the forefront of varsity esports, with its esports team, STORM, already gathering some impressive wins and awards.

However, becoming one of the world's top universities for esports does not happen by accident. When HU first started on that mission, it did not simply want to follow others' example by converting a classroom and hooking up some PCs maximized for games. Instead, the university wanted to create a dedicated, advanced esports facility, one that would give its students the best possible chance to shine, plus attract future students to the program.

Partnering with the Whitaker Center for Science and Arts, it became possible to convert a space within walking distance of the campus into a brand new, dedicated esports facility. To achieve its vision, the university worked closely with NewEra Technology. Already a supplier to HU, NewEra Technology was brought in to design the AV and networking infrastructure. An organization that combines global resources and local support, the company has both AV and networking resources, providing fully end-to-end integrated services.

Challenge

The specification for the new esports facility included 17 gaming platforms, which could be routed up to a large, video wall that can dynamically support different viewing configurations. Four wall plate input panels around the room allow students to plug in their personal gaming devices or other auxiliary sources.

"SDVoE was the best case for what they were trying to accomplish, both technically and cost-wise, providing the high bandwidth they need."

Mike Morgan
General Manager
NewEra Technology



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