



Hinds Community College

A case study on how a community college improves emergency communication to students, faculty, and staff with ALERT FM.

Hinds Community College is the largest community college in the State of Mississippi with 6 campus locations in three counties– Hinds, Rankin, and Warren. The college serves approximately 17,000 students each year.

PROBLEM

Hinds Community College (HCC) wanted to be able to communicate with students, faculty, and staff during an emergency situation. They needed a mass notification system that could distribute information to specific groups or campuses quickly using multiple communication paths.

SOLUTION

After researching various communication systems, HCC purchased ALERT FM, an aggregator of emergency information with multiple contact paths for mass notification. Emergency information is delivered via the data subcarrier of local FM radio stations, SMS, and email. This personal alert and messaging system allows college officials to send emergency messages to specific college groups such as campuses, housing units, classrooms, police departments, or administration.

The advantage of ALERT FM is that the FM radio-based messages are transmitted via GSSNet, its digital network of FM radio transmitters in Hinds, Rankin, and Warren counties. The reliability and redundancy of this network ensures that there is always a signal that can be reached even when other communication systems are disrupted.

HCC's implementation of ALERT FM included FM radio-based messaging, SMS, and email. The college also purchased ALERT FM desktop and USB receivers that will be placed around all 6 campuses. Receivers will be given to HCC first responders and placed in the administration buildings.

