

Smart ID Cards Solving Problems for Higher Ed



For decades, colleges and universities were safe havens of education. Everyone had an ID card that showed their photo and the name of the college. These simple cards would be visually reviewed by a monitor to verify access to various campus locations, like the library or cafeteria. These older ID cards may have also been used for student discounts at nearby stores.

But it's the 21st century: new times call for new solutions to new problems.

Administrators face a myriad of issues in a complex world and they're asking questions: How can I make my campus more secure? How can I track attendance to coordinate with financial aid? How can I increase graduation rates? How can I give instructors more time to teach instead of spending it on administrative tasks? How can my ID card and charge card technologies integrate?

Smart ID Cards can help.



Smart ID Cards

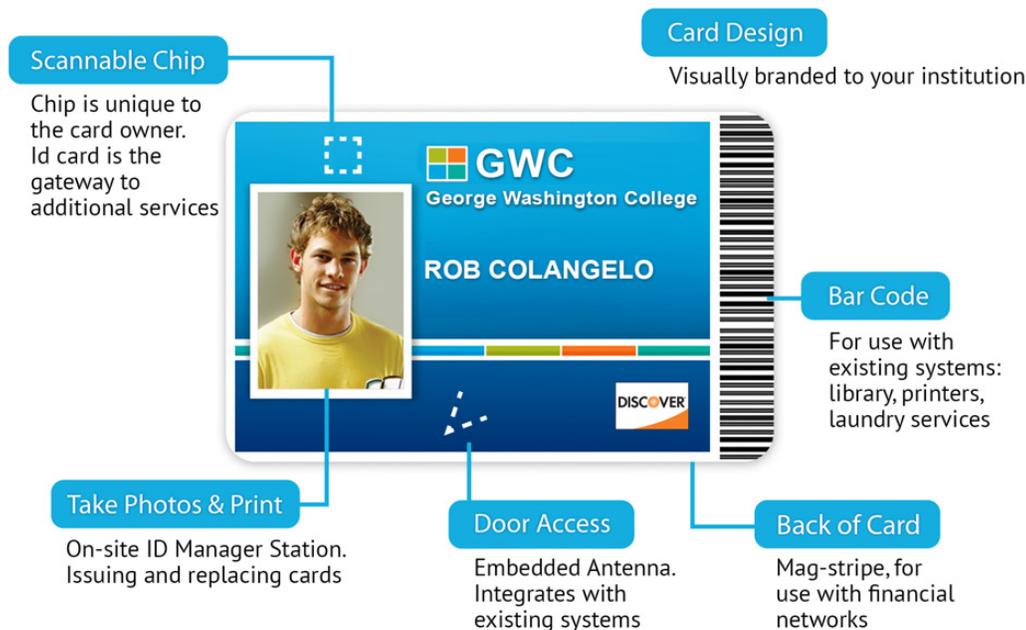
In the 1970s, technology cards were introduced into higher education; these cards typically had a magnetic strip on the back which allowed students to automatically charge purchases against their meal plan, provide access to dorms, register for classes, as well as take books out of the library. Separate credit cards were used to pay for purchases made at the bookstore, and classes were paid by check at the Bursar's Office. Still in use today, these ID cards are considered "dumb," those with a magnetic stripe or bar code on them that usually do only simple things: release a door, or pull up a food service or library account. The magstripe is also less secure.

Top 10 Reasons

Why Smart ID Is The Smart Choice



The most forward-thinking colleges and universities are now embracing smart ID cards that add an extra level of security and efficiency to any campus. ScholarChip's smart card allows a student to provide identification, make purchases, allow secure door access, pay for classes, disburse monies to student accounts, and let administrators know which students are in which classroom, hall, or building, in real time. This data provides a host of reports that can increase campus safety, help students succeed, and improve administrative efficiencies.



How Smart Cards Work

Smart ID cards let students tap their cards onto a reader and they are automatically identified, quickly and easily. Readers can be installed at a building entrance, in the classroom, cafeteria, library, gym, or in the student union or health office. And they're fast, too; in fact, some configurations can process a thousand students in just minutes. Employee ID cards can be assigned door access privileges via a management website, and will be able tap their cards to gain access to secure doors.

An embedded chip (see graphic above) in the card is encoded with a unique ID number assigned to one individual. It is the back-end computer that maintains detailed information on the student or staff member to whom the ID is issued, so administering the program is simple and straightforward. Cards can be activated and deactivated on demand and only one card is active at any time, which increases security when students graduate or instructors leave.

ScholarChip's smart ID cards use the tightest international security standards (PCI, FISMA, SSAE16), which are the same that banks, credit card companies, and others use; individual information is secure and the IDs are almost impossible to replicate. Touch-based passive ID cards do not infringe on student or administrator privacy.

Readers can be placed at each building door, classroom or office, and are often installed on moveable kiosks for

specific events for tracking large group attendance like at basketball games, theater events, special lectures or the like. ScholarChip's smart ID card can interact with legacy card programs—those card systems that are already on campus, so the upgrade to smart technologies means existing service can also be used. When coupled with other technologies (i.e. existing secure door access, magnetic stripe, bar codes), the resulting multi-technology card becomes extremely useful.

One ScholarChip ID card can connect these disparate systems to make safety, attendance, and financial transactions seamless and efficient.



Increasing Safety

According to Everytown, an organization devoted to gun safety, between 2013-15 there were 160 school shootings across 38 states, with 47 percent taking place on college or university campuses. On campus violence and crime is a common theme in today's news; schools are faced with the threat of active shooters or drug dealers lurking on the grounds, and campuses lock down when a threat is perceived.

Knowing which students and staff are in which classroom or building is the key to providing a safe, secure school environment, and using smart cards is an efficient and cost effective method of identifying everyone on campus.

For administrators, they are an automated, cost-effective, easily implemented solution.

Locking Down



When a campus is in an emergency lockdown, one of the most important questions to answer is: how many students are in this building or in this class? With a smart ID card system, academic administrators can quickly get a count in real time of the entire population who tapped in.

A ScholarChip system also provides administrators and police with actionable data and greater control over an entire campus: this information could mean the difference between safety and disaster. Benefits include:

- An accurate location report available on a tablet or computer that shows which students and staff members used their card for attendance or secure door access. Therefore, they can be identified in the building or in a specific room, which helps first responders react fast.
- Automated lock-down solutions can allow all doors in a building or across the campus to be locked with a single command. This immediacy improves reaction time and can save lives.
- People authorized to be on campus are quickly recognizable. Students, teachers and volunteers wearing official smart ID cards can be processed more efficiently in the case of an evacuation or lock-down.

To automate the process even more effectively, some districts provide their local police and fire departments

with precinct- or campus-specific ID Cards that allow them immediate access into school buildings.



Attendance And Financial Aid

College students, particularly freshmen, have a difficult time making it to class every day; with newfound freedom and the lure of parties and late night socializing, it's easy to sleep in and miss a lecture or lab. It's especially difficult if professors don't count attendance as a part of a course requirement. But capturing attendance is important for students that receive federal financial aid.

According Oregon State University, "...the U.S. Department of Education nevertheless requires (34 CFR 668.22) the Office of Financial Aid to determine if a student who receives financial aid and fails to earn a passing grade in a course has actually attended and/or completed the course, or if they withdrew from a course without providing the university official notification.

In addition, for students who officially withdraw, [Oregon State is] required to document that they also began attending the course(s) from which they withdrew in order to determine the type and amount of financial aid they may be eligible to retain. Because a student could be a financial aid applicant at any point during the academic year, we must collect this information for all students, so that financial aid eligibility can be accurately determined."

With an electronic attendance-taking process, capturing this data is seamless and straightforward.

And attending every class is vital for most students' success, and the more students that graduate, the more a college or university succeeds.

Smart cards make tracking classroom attendance easy for professors; students simply tap into a reader at the beginning of class and they are marked present in real time. This lets instructors see which students aren't making it to class consistently; if they count attendance toward a grade, they can quickly access the data, even for large introductory auditorium-type classrooms.

Some universities have implemented retention programs that identify struggling students; electronic attendance tracking in real time means that alerts can be set up so that counselors or others can be notified when students aren't coming to class. Discovering who is skipping class means they can be targeted for early intervention, which can help them stay in school throughout their two- or four-year program.

Large-Group: Mobile kiosks can record entry of up to 40 students per minute, so keeping track of populations that attend specific events can be easy and seen in real-time. Professors who assign a poetry reading, for example, can receive a report that shows which students showed up for the performance, which can help mitigate cheating.



Visitor Management

There are a number of companies that offer visitor management services, but they typically supply hospitals, corporations, and factories. But universities are different than those industries: schools have a unique set of issues that need to be addressed. It's important to find a vendor that focuses only on the education market, to make sure you get the most experienced visitor management partner.

How Accurate is Your Data?

Some VM systems require time-consuming manual data entry: a visitor presents his or her ID, and an office staff member types the information in. Some schools use OCR (optical character recognition) technology, a common method of digitizing printed text so it can be electronically

uploaded, edited and searched. However, OCR recognition is still not 100% accurate, even where clear imaging is available.

An easy way to get accurate data is by scanning a visitor's state-issued driver's license, which provides the most current data available. Efficient visitor management systems like ScholarChip's scan the PDF417 barcode on the back of the license and automatically populate the information into the school system.

PDF417 is the standard selected by the Department of Homeland Security as the machine-readable technology for the RealID Act of 2005-compliant driver licenses and state-issued identification cards. It is extremely difficult to hack, and is one of the most secure and precise ways used to identify the person connected to the ID.



A current and accurate photo is then captured and once this information is uploaded, a visitor pass or fob can be issued. The person is now listed in the school database, and his or her presence is tracked when they arrive and when they leave the building or the campus.

Sex Offenders – Click with Confidence

There are over 700,000 registered sex offenders in the United States, and it is vital that campus security and administrators identify any visitor who is registered in a sex offender database before they can be allowed into a campus. Granted, many of these people are convicted of nonviolent crimes, but there are those may pose a threat to a university population.

Each state, many Indian territories, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands maintain separate sex offender registries, while the Department of Justice maintains its own separate database for federal offenders. There are a lot of registries, and not all of them are cross-referenced.

Some visitor management systems buy their databases from a third party, which may contain inaccuracies, or the information could be out of date. Often, photos aren't updated, so if a person committed a crime 30 years ago, and the database showed their photo at that time, their appearance probably has changed with age.

However, ScholarChip uses a service that integrates, verifies and updates all of the available databases downloaded from each available registry, on a daily basis.

This data is collected through the Department of Justice's National Sex Offender Registry database, individual state offender databases and third party service companies, and is used to create the most comprehensive registry available to K12 today.

When using their Visitor Management service, upon reading the PDF 417 barcode on a driver's license, the system automatically searches for a match between the registered visitor and publically-available sex offender records. Automated searches are based on last name, first name and date of birth, when available.

All possible matches are displayed to the system operator or displayed on a secure website dashboard in a campus administration office, so university security knows who is on campus at any time.

21st Century Solutions

Smart ID cards can make campuses more secure, and the attendance data they gather helps make administrative jobs more efficient and emergency management easier. The ID card chip is unique to its holder; data cannot be accessed from it; and lost or stolen cards can be quickly deactivated.

They act as the key between disparate services by using new and legacy technology, so they are easy to implement. They are cloud-based and modular in style, and can fulfill an immediate need and scale up when circumstances and budgets change.

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ARMET Group is a national association of solution providers and integrators offering broad spectrum, dynamic solutions for identification management, safety and security.

They centralize and manage disconnected school services like financial aid disbursements, library services, secure door access, print/laundry/ecommerce tracking, visitor management, and even class attendance, which helps in financial aid justification. They can record check in and check out times for better time management.

Smart ID cards are a 21st century solution to 21st century problems



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