

water sense



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS
SPRING 2015

Partnering with Calsense to Support UWG's Strategic Initiatives

In 2006 the University of West Georgia began its master plan for a new sports complex including a football stadium, soccer, and softball fields adding an additional 384 acres. At the time, campus irrigation consisted of stand-alone controllers from different manufacturers with many hours of programming and running around campus.

Research on control systems took place over time while waiting for an opportunity to standardize. During the construction of the Student Center, funds became available to improve campus irrigation. A long time, industry friend, Dave Rippe was called in to meet with the campus Landscape Architect and engineers. Dave took the time to review plans, discuss watering needs, and recommended what would help achieve our objectives. A radio survey was done to determine the best communication option. The University was impressed with what Calsense could provide long term which made the decision easy. The customer service received has been incredible. Dave meets with the irrigation consultant and contractors on every installation and is instrumental in the success at West Georgia.

The Calsense system has grown to over 13 controllers communicating through a Local Radio HUB covering over 680 acres. The system is great for tracking water use and preventing loss. The campus has wells, cisterns, and city water connections some of which



Sean D Connors, Athletic Field Superintendent, University of West Georgia

are managed by the same controller. Setting parameters for each system and having daily alerts provides a sense of comfort. On a university campus many things take place overnight; accidents, vandalism and an occasional storm so it's nice to know that the system shuts down when necessary, saving water and a physical trip to campus after hours. The central software is tasked daily to gather controller information first thing in the morning, so as to determine if any repairs need to be done that day.

Operating the software is easy and straight forward and especially helpful are station activity reports pinpointing a short, low current, or no current. The sports complex is located at the highest elevation and lightning has been a problem. There's no need to wait for a spot in the turf to brown out before knowing a valve isn't working, or a wet, soggy turf condition is occurring because a stuck valve is on past its run time. The system has my back! The handheld unit is like a mini controller; it's easy to

pick and choose stations anywhere on campus, quickly visualize the problems thus speeding up the repair process. An ET gauge and a Tipping Rain Bucket installed measure real-time weather conditions so that daily adjustments are made automatically saving thousands of gallons yearly and many man hours.

The University has chosen to partner with Calsense for all irrigation needs and has become the standard. We specify Calsense on every new and retrofit project. Dr. Marrero, the University of West Georgia president has asked me to partner with companies that align our external and internal needs to improve operational management. Being able to collect data, show water and dollar savings, and prevent further damage from broken or vandalized equipment is key to our continued development and long-term success.

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