Access Control

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With campus safety a top priority, Western Kentucky University is locking down efforts to keep doors secure.

Amy Bingham explains in this week’s View from the Hill.

Could advanced technology mean keys will someday be a thing of the past? Maybe not completely, but a push is underway on WKU’s campus to add more electronic access and streamline campus security.

Quentin Hughes \ Access Control Administrator

Ron Rizzo \ Staff Engineer

Ben Johnson \ Asst. Dir., Planning, Design & Construction

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Lots of doors mean lots of keys at WKU.

“We have records for over 10,500 key holders on WKU campus and satellite campuses.”

When those keys are lost, stolen or not turned in, the cost to change the locks adds up.

“I usually tell people if they have two or more keys the replacement cost for us to return compromised key system to secure state will be close to a thousand dollars.”

Access control administrator Quentin Hughes is leading WKU’s effort to transition away from keys and to a more efficient electronic access.

“If a metal key is cut and issued, if its out there you can’t turn it off, it’s gone. Electronic access control, a card, you simply just click a button and deactivate the card.”

That type of monitoring is especially handy in the engineering building where 85% of it is already equipped with access control doors.

“It’s important that we give students access to the equipment or to use the computer software that’s required to achieve their job/task.”

More than a dozen other buildings on campus have some sort of electronic control and which can be monitored 24/7.

“It’s a matter of reduced timing in terms of response to regain security in terms of lost of stolen cards.”

Cost is the biggest barrier to implementing access control which is why this transition will be a long process.

“ I think at some point in time keys may go away but it’s gonna be a while. We’re gonna be running both systems for a very long time.”

WKU is currently in the running for a 200 thousand dollar grant which Hughes says would pay for 15 to 20 access control doors.

You can help them win by logging onto stanleysaferschools.com and vote for WKU.

The contest ends February 13th.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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