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Spotlight on Success

# Excelsior College Consolidates and Simplifies Storage with ATEC Group and NetApp

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Customer

- Excelsior College
- Albany, NY
- [www.excelsior.edu](http://www.excelsior.edu)
- Industry: Education



### NetApp Partner

- ATEC Group
- [www.atecgroup.com](http://www.atecgroup.com)



“With NetApp storage coupled with ATEC Group’s top-notch expertise and support, Excelsior College has found the perfect unified storage and disaster recovery solution to support faculty, staff, and student mission-critical services.”

**David Krzynowek**  
Systems Engineer  
Excelsior College

## CUSTOMER PROFILE

Excelsior College provides educational opportunities to adult learners with an emphasis on those historically underrepresented in higher education. The college meets students where they are—academically and geographically—offering quality instruction and the assessment of prior learning.

As a world leader in distance learning, Excelsior College helps busy working adults earn the degrees they need with flexible online or traditional course offerings. Excelsior College, formerly Regents College, was founded in 1971. The school’s name, which means “Ever Upward,” depicts how, with over 130,000 graduates, Excelsior College propels students toward their goals.

## CUSTOMER CHALLENGES

- Consolidate disparate and widely distributed direct-attached storage (DAS)
- Reduce storage management cost and complexity
- Enable flexible storage growth to support expanding curriculum
- Support 40% data growth per year

## SOLUTION

- Engage ATEC to specify, design, and implement a unified, single-interface storage architecture
- Consolidate DAS storage silos on NetApp to streamline storage management and improve efficiencies
- Provide scalability for immediate needs and flexibility for nondisruptive expansion

## BENEFITS

- Consolidated DAS distributed among 60 servers into a single centrally managed storage system
- Substantially simplified storage management, allowing IT administrators to focus on other tasks
- Improved backup and recovery that established the foundation for a DR strategy implemented a year later
- Reduced backup from 30 hours to 3 minutes
- Slashed recovery from 2 days to 20 minutes
- Delivered easy integration with a VMware® environment consisting of 55 VMs, 4 ESX servers, and virtualized applications including Lotus Domino, Microsoft® Office SharePoint® Server, and Microsoft SQL Server®
- Provided the flexibility to achieve a nondisruptive upgrade when capacity growth needs were reassessed

## NETAPP PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

- NetApp FAS920c storage system
- NetApp FAS3020c storage system
- NetApp FAS3020 storage system
- NetApp SnapManager® for SQL Server
- NetApp SnapRestore®
- NetApp SnapMirror®
- NetApp deduplication

## ENVIRONMENT

- Applications: VMware, Lotus Notes
- Databases: Oracle® 10g™ R2, SQL Server
- OS: UNIX®, Linux®, Microsoft Windows®
- Protocols: CIFS, NFS, iSCSI

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