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Campus video surveillance system under construction

Summary: Funding from Central Security on the University of Minnesota's Twin Cities campus is being used to provide the infrastructure for and the installation of security cameras on the University of Minnesota, Morris campus.

(November 15, 2007)-Funding from Central Security on the University of Minnesota's Twin Cities campus is being used to provide the infrastructure for and the installation of security cameras on the University of Minnesota, Morris campus. UMM Plant Services crews have begun the construction process, which will continue through the winter.

"The infrastructure for a total of about 40 cameras will go in all at once," said Robert Thompson, UMM plant services engineer and project manager. Twenty cameras will be installed initially, with approximately 20 more to be added when additional funding becomes available.

Thompson is working in cooperation with Chuck Grussing, campus police, Dave Savela, computing services, and Roger Boleman, media services, all of UMM, as well as with the consulting firm of Ericksen Ellison and Associates Inc. Additionally, Ken McMillan, IT technician from the Duluth campus, has provided expertise for the project.

Grussing said that the cameras, which will be state-of-the-art, are intended as a safety measure for the campus and that the Twin Cities and Duluth campuses have also installed similar equipment. He identified strategic campus locations for the cameras, such as in parking lots, selected paths and walkways as well as inside some buildings. Central Security will monitor the cameras from the Twin Cities.

UMM has other security measures already in place. In 2001, the campus began installing emergency and courtesy telephones both within campus buildings and on the campus grounds.

Photo by Robert Thompson: Conduit for video surveillance system dug in behind Behmler Hall

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