

James Madison University Rec Center installs Designed Security, Inc. Optical Turnstiles

The Director of the James Madison University Recreation Center (UREC) took advantage of the 2008/09 winter break to create a new first impression by replacing the 11-year-old mechanical turnstiles at the facilities only entrance with new optical turnstiles manufactured by Designed Security, Inc.



JMU Rec Center with newly installed Designed Security, Inc. ES831 Optical Turnstiles

More than 3,000 students and faculty use the 11-year-old facility each day, and the traffic had taken a toll on the building's mechanical turnstiles. Parts were difficult to find, operation was erratic, and one turnstile had simply been taken out of service.

UREC Facility Director Lorie Miller selected an optical turnstile manufactured by Texas-based Designed Security Incorporated (DSI) after visiting other nearby universities. The ES831 bi-directional optical turnstiles were designed for high-speed and high volume entries of 30-45 pedestrians per minute.

The DSI turnstiles tripled ADA-accessible gates at the entrance and are designed to yield to patrons as a "soft barrier" rather than physically prevent exit. In the event the reader does not validate a card or another person attempts to "tailgate", the system detects, deters, and then alerts staff with an alarm. This soft barrier allows for rapid evacuation of the building not possible before.



Mechanical turnstiles prior to the DSI ES831 Optical Turnstile installation