INTELLIGENT U:
CREATING A MORE ENGAGING CAMPUS LEARNING EXPERIENCE

See how Cisco's Digital Education Platform is transforming the way educators teach, share, organize, research and inspire the next generation of students.

Following a peak in enrollment in 2011, the number of college students has steadily declined over the last five years, reducing the pool of students from which schools can recruit, according to research from Education Dive. The 2015 Survey of Admissions Directors confirms this trend, adding that 58% of admissions directors reported not meeting their goals for the 2015–2016 academic year.

As colleges look for new ways to attract potential candidates to their campuses, Intelligent U—a hypothetical higher education establishment representative of the 4,700+ degree-granting educational institutions in the U.S. (per the U.S. Dept. of Education) is struggling with another problem.

2011

Since **2011, college enrollment** has been steadily declining.

(Source: Education Dive)

Replacing data silos with a hyperconverged infrastructure, mobility and collaboration

Like many other colleges, Intelligent U had already made significant investments in technology over the years, including a campus-wide wireless network. It had even outfitted some of its lecture halls with smart boards and a learning management system (LMS) portal professors could use to assign and correct homework and share information with students outside the classroom. With a growing concentration of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs, the university's information systems department struggled to keep up with growing computing demands. Fortunately, the department recognized that throwing more money at its aging infrastructures wasn't going to give the university the IZATION transformation it needed. After consulting with several outside IT consultants, the university migrated its legacy infrastructure to a Cisco Digital Education Platform and transformed its campus in three key areas:

1 **Converged infrastructure:** Traditional computing environments, whether in the enterprise or a campus-like Intelligent U, suffer from data silos, underused resources in some areas and overtaxed resources in others. By deploying Cisco HyperFlex—a hyperconverged server/storage solution based on Cisco's UCS (Unified Computing System) servers and Springpath's hyperconverged technology—Intelligent U is bringing the power of the cloud to its campus, enabling independent scaling (for example, pay as you grow) of compute, storage performance and storage capacity. Plus, it can significantly reduce large

capital expenditures with a subscription-based software model and uniform management of computing, networking and storage.

A more engaging wireless experience: Without ripping and replacing its legacy network, the university added Cisco Connected Mobile Experiences (CMX), a solution that uses Cisco beacons equipped with Bluetooth low energy (BLE) to enable secure, location-based services and more. As students enter a classroom, for example, they receive specific documents, videos and other information pertinent to the daily lesson on their mobile devices. Or, when browsing in the commons, a message highlighting a lunch special may appear on their mobile device and guide them through a secure digital payment transaction.

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Real collaboration achieved: The university took its upgrade a step further by implementing Cisco Spark, transforming its classrooms into engaging high-tech learning environments where teachers present information via Cisco Spark Board smart boards and can even bring in virtual guest lecturers from anywhere in the world. Each student has a front-row seat to the lecture via their laptop or tablet, plus full two-way unified communications via Cisco Spark.

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The best ROI: An engaged learning environment

After implementing the Cisco Digital Education Platform, a university like Intelligent U could experience similar results to the real-life San Jose State University, which replaced its legacy campus network infrastructure (including five disparate phone systems) with Cisco wireless, telephony and networking solutions. Now, the university provides 10Gb wireless connections to dorms that previously had only 100 Mb connections. And, in the classroom, students and faculty can collaborate more easily with anyone in the world. Not only has the quality of learning been enhanced at San Jose State University, the students are more engaged in learning and better prepared for their future careers in a global work environment.

There are more than **4,700 degree-granting** educational institutions in the U.S.
(Source: U.S. Department of Education)