

# California State University - Phase II

## Technology enabling educational success into the future

“The long-term investment with ALE has returned more benefit than the initial \$100M in savings. ALE networking and network management solutions have removed the guess work from the efforts of CSU, helping reinvest and evolve services that are enabling educational success, now and well into the future.”

Michel Davidoff, Cyberinfrastructure CSU  
Chancellors Office

California State University laid a strategic path using technology a key enabler to student success. Phase I enabled the largest four-year university system in the U.S. to create better security, enable anywhere accessible Wi-Fi and open shared services via the cloud to improve the overall campus experience. Phase II has benefited from the more than \$100M cost savings, along with an expansive technology infrastructure, enabling greater educational success and delivery on the university’s Graduation Initiative 2025.

### CHALLENGES

In 2012, state funding led the California State University system to embark on a network transformation. Seeking a long-term, reliable, transformable and flexible investment for their cross-state network upgrade, Alcatel-Lucent Enterprise stepped up as the trusted technology vendor by addressing the strict technical compliance requirements along with a significant cost savings over the incumbent.

Over the past several years, CSU has invested savings from the project to create services and used analysis of those services to build on the investment. Numerous achievements can be tracked to the phase I network upgrade, including projected technology configuration which shows CSU what services people are using. As a result, they buy only what is needed to achieve success. Yet, the top three outcomes noted by the CSU Chancellors office have been better security protecting the students’ personal information, broader wireless access, and the creation of the CSU Cloud Acceleration Center.

### PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Alcatel-Lucent OmniSwitch® 6900  
Alcatel-Lucent OmniSwitch® 6860  
Alcatel-Lucent OmniVista® 2500 Network Management System

### WHAT MADE THE DIFFERENCE?

Among the various factors leading to the success of the project was that the ALE solution supported the key priorities of CSU IT revolving around transformation and innovation, shared services achieving economies of scale, and securing organization communication and effectiveness. The initial upgrade met CSU’s objective to right size the network and save money on infrastructure costs. Standardizing on one vendor and unifying management simplified IT operations. It also created more connectivity, increased bandwidth and improved reliability. The combined CAPEX and OPEX savings uncovered expansive opportunities.

### > TECHNICAL BENEFITS

Results from phase I led CSU to deliver more shared services like centralized management, standardized technology, and enhanced security with Universal Network Profile (uNP) - all while reducing operational complexities - with OmniVista Network Management System. Additionally, working with the Alcatel Operating System 8 (AOS), CSU created further network automation and better policy enforcement.

The ALE Virtual Chassis technology has supported a high level of redundancy built into the network architecture, creating an exceedingly reliable network for 500K+ users.

The expansive network upgrade enabled CSU to create the Cloud Acceleration Center. With a focus on using cloud services and architecture to implement a cloud transformation, an advisory group came together to establish an “easy button” for all campus IT departments to work with AWS and Allure, while maintaining their data governance policies and standards.

### > FINANCIAL BENEFITS

The network infrastructure enables CSU to save more by moving applications like disaster recovery, research/ science projects, and more Software as a Service (SAS) and Infrastructure as a Service to the cloud.

Additionally, real cost savings have translated into 250 percent more wireless access points across the 20+ campuses.

### > USER EXPERIENCE BENEFITS

With this significant shift in IT delivery, CSU is thinking differently to encourage innovation, remove barriers that impede student success and be more strategic in the way they serve students. The key priorities for CSU Information Technology - which have been impacted with ALE solutions - support the state’s Graduation Initiative (GI) 2025, to increase graduation rates for all CSU students while eliminating opportunity and achievement gaps.

### Customer Story

MARKET: HIGHER EDUCATION  
DEAL IMPLEMENTED: 2012-2020

COUNTRY: UNITED STATES  
NUMBER OF USERS: 500K

COMPANY:  
CALIFORNIA STATE  
UNIVERSITY SYSTEM