

Saving Energy Key in Miami School System Lighting Upgrade



The Miami-Dade Community College System is the largest community college in the nation, comprised of six campuses and numerous buildings, totaling almost five million square feet of space. In 2000, the college's facilities department embarked on an 18-month lighting system upgrade to drive down energy costs.

"Fuel surcharges rose 18 percent from the 1999-2000 school year to 2000-2001," said project manager Ed Benedetti. "They have since declined, but remain eight percent above the 1999-2000 base year. In addition to rising energy costs, we have been experiencing a growth in the student population, are operating extended hours programs, and have constructed two new buildings during the last two years. The school has also installed hundreds of computers, and

in conjunction with the heavy use of air conditioning in south Florida, we knew we needed to do something to ease our growing electricity consumption and reduce overall costs."

The lighting retrofit was completed in approximately 18 months by the school's facilities maintenance staff, and the job required more than 13,000 hours of labor.

In addition, Benedetti said more than 100,000 lamps were replaced. Some fixtures were 20 years old, and other fixtures could not be removed so they had to be rebuilt in the existing space.

As part of the retrofit program, the school system installed approximately 17,000 Universal Lighting Technologies' Triad[®] low profile electronic ballasts (B232I277RH-A). The Triad[®] low profile ballasts optimize system technology by providing greater efficiency and

In Brief:

Project:

Miami-Dade
Community College

Location:

Miami, Fla.

Products Used:

Triad[®] low profile
electronic ballasts
(B232I277RH-A)

Number Installed:

More than 17,000

**For more
information about:
Miami-Dade**

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Graybar Electric Co. Inc.

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dramatic energy savings within a lightweight, space-saving design. All models have a height of just 1.18" and feature parallel lamp operation—when one lamp fails, the others remain at full light level. The low profile electronic ballasts were specified and purchased with the help of Graybar Electric, one of South Florida's largest distributors.

"Although compact size, quality and reliability are important considerations in all our lighting fixtures, energy savings was our primary goal in this project," said Benedetti. Comparing the electricity savings on an "apples-to-apples" basis—the base-load energy usage of the buildings that existed before and after the retrofit—the Triad®



Universal Lighting's low-profile RH electronic ballasts feature a small package and cross section, making installation easy.

low profile ballasts reduced the overall school system Kw/hr consumption by almost six percent over a one-year period of time. When the newly constructed buildings were factored in the retrofit project, the total consumption of electricity for air, power and lighting decreased more than 12 percent.

"While fuel cost surcharges rose during this period, we saved \$570,000 in electricity costs in the first year," said Benedetti, "which almost paid the \$600,000 cost to complete the lighting upgrade project. We saved approximately \$800,000 in the second year and expect to save that much or more every year going forward."

The replacement and upgrade project also improved the quality of lighting throughout the campuses. Benedetti and his crews installed additional energy-saving devices during the project, including sensors that turn off the lights in areas where no one is present. "We are proud of the fact that the Miami-Dade Community College now has a state-of-the-art lighting system," said Benedetti. "We tackled the problem of rising energy costs and installed technology that benefits the School System, the faculty and students, and the taxpayers in our districts. We are extremely pleased that the lighting equipment was available that allowed us to meet our goals."

School systems across the country are looking for creative ways to reduce electricity costs and focus their budgets on education. Universal Lighting Technologies is helping lower energy-related costs in a host of educational institutions around the country.

About Universal Lighting Technologies

Universal Lighting Technologies Inc. manufactures ballasts for all lighting applications. The company's full line of ballasts is designed for exceptional performance in lamps ranging from 5 to 2000 watts. These include magnetic, electronic, and compact fluorescent, high intensity discharge, sign and neon. As a major manufacturer of electrical equipment, Universal Lighting Technologies plays a lead role in setting industry standards for quality and energy efficiency. The company actively participates in trade associations and assists in the development of many standards through ANSI, NEMA and IESNA.

Want to Know More?

Universal Lighting Technologies' ballasts are available through a nationwide network of several thousand electrical distributors and are also incorporated in the designs of leading OEM lighting fixture manufacturers. To learn more about the full line of Universal Lighting Technologies' ballasts or to request a catalog, call 1-800-BALLAST, fax your request to 615-316-5146, or visit the Web site at www.universalballast.com.



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