

**VENSTAR®**



## SIMPSON UNIVERSITY CLASSROOM TEMPERATURES ARE COMFORTABLE, THANKS TO VENSTAR'S COLORTOUCH THERMOSTAT WITH SKYPORT

### CHALLENGE:

#### Remotely monitor HVAC performance in classrooms and auditoriums

Rodney Hauptman has worked as Simpson University's HVAC specialist for more than 15 years. A licensed HVAC contractor for 30 years, Hauptman is responsible for keeping the university's classrooms, auditorium and other buildings comfortable in summer temperatures exceeding 100 degrees and chilly winter nights dipping below 40 degrees. With 310 HVAC systems on campus, Hauptman is often found running between buildings, ensuring the indoor comfort of students, faculty and visitors.

With today's mobile technological advancements, Hauptman knew there must be a way to remotely access and control on-campus thermostats. He wanted to be able to remotely change temperature settings and check on supply air temperatures coming from HVAC equipment to ensure temperature comfort of the occupied buildings on campus. He turned to Venstar's ColorTouch® commercial touchscreen, programmable thermostat with free Skyport™ Cloud Services.

### SOLUTION:

#### Venstar's ColorTouch thermostat with Skyport Wi-Fi Services

Using Venstar's ColorTouch commercial thermostat with free Skyport Cloud Services, Hauptman can use his iPhone® to remotely access and control ColorTouch thermostats anywhere on campus. Whether he's at home, across campus or traveling, he can quickly and easily access the ColorTouch thermostats via the school's secure Wi-Fi® network or virtually anywhere he has Internet access. He can check to see why one part of a room is cool and the other is warm, simply by using his iPhone to access the thermostats and determine the supply air temperature.

With room schedules that regularly change and include rentals for extracurricular activities, Hauptman has devised a smart way of ensuring the comfort of everyone who will be in campus buildings by creating a spreadsheet of the schedule of all activities on campus. He checks the rooms to ensure that the heat or air conditioning is working in advance of the rooms being used so that everyone will be comfortable. He also has the thermostats programmed with setpoint limiting, giving room occupants some flexibility of temperature within reasonable limits. They can change the room temperature by 2-4 degrees without a passcode, allowing them to set their own comfortable temperatures while maintaining the security of the thermostats. Since the keypads remain locked, no other changes can be made.

Using ColorTouch with Skyport has also helped Hauptman diagnose problems with his HVAC systems. He said that on a number of occasions, he was able to tell when there was an HVAC system problem by using Skyport to access the thermostats and check on the



### About

## ColorTouch®

Venstar offers six models of its award-winning ColorTouch smart programmable residential and commercial thermostats. Top-ranked by Consumer Reports, all six ColorTouch models have a multi-functional, simple-to-use touchscreen, which can be programmed to display a picture gallery of up to 100 files to be used as a digital picture frame when not in thermostat display.

ColorTouch thermostats are compatible with Venstar's free Skyport Cloud Services, which allows both commercial and residential users to use Venstar's free Skyport mobile app on their Apple iOS®, Android®, and BlackBerry® mobile devices or directly from the Web to instantly access and control multiple thermostats at numerous locations.

supply air temperatures. In one case, only half of an auditorium was cooling appropriately. He was able to quickly identify the problem (a simple freon leak) and fix it before the room was occupied. On another occasion, it was 108 degrees outside, and even with two 2-stage units and two compressors, the large meeting room was not being cooled adequately. With the thermostats, he identified that one of the systems was only running on the first stage, and he was able to have it fixed right away. Without ColorTouch thermostats and Skyport, he said he probably would not have even been aware of this problem and would likely have had a very unhappy client.

In addition, in case of an emergency, Hauptman or campus security personnel can send text message alerts to every ColorTouch thermostat, letting students and faculty know to lock the doors and stay inside until the emergency has passed.

## Results: ColorTouch helps keep Simpson University comfortable year round

Venstar's ColorTouch with free Skyport Cloud Services helps ensure consistent, comfortable temperatures in buildings at Simpson University, no matter how hot or cold it is outside. Supply air sensors report the temperature of the air coming out of the HVAC equipment, so it's easy for Hauptman to determine when there is a real problem and have it fixed quickly. Venstar's free Skyport Cloud Services provide remote access to the thermostats so he can easily access, monitor and program the thermostats from virtually anywhere there's Internet access.

Hauptman said, "Venstar's ColorTouch with Skyport allows me to ensure that our buildings are comfortable and alerts me to potential HVAC system issues. I appreciate that it empowers me to use my iPhone to make changes to the thermostats from virtually anywhere, allowing me to fix temperature issues very quickly — like magic."

## About Simpson University

Simpson University ([www.simpsonu.edu](http://www.simpsonu.edu)) is a private, Christian university with more than 1,300 students, offering undergraduate, graduate and teaching credential programs. Based in Redding, Calif., its mission is to develop each student in mind, faith and character for a lifetime of meaningful service. Simpson's programs include master's degrees in counseling psychology and organizational leadership as well as degrees in biology and nursing.



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## About Venstar

Founded in 1992, Venstar Inc. is a leading thermostat and energy management system (EMS) manufacturer, known for providing value to its customers via ease of use and installation, proven cost savings, improved energy efficiency, quality and reliability. Venstar is one of the largest thermostat suppliers in the world and designs and produces Venstar-branded products as well as OEM thermostat products for the biggest names in HVAC. Venstar's Surveyor is a leading energy management system, typically saving small-box retailers 25-35 percent of their energy costs, which translates to tens of millions of dollars in savings each year and dramatic reductions in CO2 emissions. Surveyor currently controls the energy usage of 25,000+ retail locations across the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico and Mexico.



Rodney Hauptman, Simpson University's HVAC specialist for more than 15 years

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