Sierra-Cedar

Lake Michigan College's Migration to AWS Brings Cost Savings, Improvements to Performance and Security

Client Overview

Founded in 1946, Lake Michigan College (LMC) is an accredited, two-year, nonprofit community college comprised of three campuses with more than 80 different academic programs. As part of its "cloud first strategy," LMC engaged Sierra-Cedar to assist with migrating its data center (approximately 140 servers) to Amazon Web Services (AWS).

Project Summary

Sierra-Cedar AWS architecture specialists worked closely with LMC project leaders to develop and execute LMC's comprehensive AWS migration plan. It included strategic IT governance, security, connectivity, and ongoing monitoring of LMC's migrated applications. The project lasted two months from planning through execution.

Objectives

- Improve performance and reliability of aging data center
- Reduce costs & risks associated with traditional on-premise IT
- Improve LMC's security stance
- Increase organizational resiliency by extending business continuity/disaster recovery plans

From the Client

The execution was flawless, and the migration was completed without interruption to our faculty or students. I could not have asked for anything more."

Derrick Griffin
Systems & Security Engineer
Lake Michigan College

Organization Overview

Industry: Higher Education
Students: 3,200
Employees: 350

Products & Services

AWS Consulting Services
AWS Control Tower
AWS Security Hub
AWS Transit Gateway
AWS System Manager

Results

LMC's IT Department advanced college-wide goals of academic excellence and student success by creating a nimble, innovative IT infrastructure platform to streamline daily operations and reduce overhead costs. Results include:

- Retired tape library resulting in more than $25k savings per year
- Automated cloud and on-premise system patching processes using AWS System Manager, saving staff 40 hours per month
- Enhanced data security by automating security monitoring of cloud environments using AWS Security Hub
- Re-platformed its Drupal public website using infrastructure-as-code and cloud managed services
- Increased flexibility to respond to Covid-19 challenges
- Ability to scale support footprint up or down quickly by provisioning future requests for resources in AWS