



# Barry University graduates with honors for service delivery and data availability



Higher education demands higher data and application availability. NetApp rules the school.

Higher education is undergoing its most transformative period ever. Even before Covid-19 completely changed how students of all ages achieve learning, the role of colleges and universities has been under close scrutiny for efficiency and value to students, parents and communities.

Barry University, a small private institution in Miami, Florida serving 8,000 students, is responding to rapid changes like many schools in the United States by supporting a blend of in-person and remote instruction.

Supported by a NetApp® storage and data management infrastructure, Barry University is riding out storms – literally and figuratively – to keep the school's application and data assets up and running.

**Barry University**

## Full disaster recovery in 10 minutes

“We get that feeling that we matter, we are an important customer to NetApp. The fact that it works and it reduces the amount of time that I spend administering systems – that’s great too – but that partnership just seals the deal.”

Justin Moses  
Director of Data Center Operations, Barry University

### The heart of Miami

Barry University is located in the heart of Miami, Florida. It has 8,000 students - approximately 1,500 of them living on campus - and 2,500 faculty and staff. Founded as Catholic university in 1940, Barry University prides itself on personalized attention and a commitment to serving a diverse student body.

Justin Moses, Director of Data Center Operations, has constantly evolved Barry’s ongoing strategy of IT-as-a-service delivery. Since 2004, NetApp storage hardware and supporting management tools have been his primary storage investments.

Moses is responsible for a broad range of workloads to support students, faculty and administrators. Under normal circumstances, it’s a challenging environment of constant change. Moses and his three-person staff must support learning platforms for class content, ERP systems, campus housing management applications, messaging and collaboration applications, and processing-intensive applications such as video production applications. Students and staff alike access services through a single portal called myBarry to streamline access and control of applications. With more than 180 Virtual Servers, 10,000+ home folders, 40 TB worth of shared drives and close to 200 databases being supported at any time, availability and service delivery are paramount.

“You’re dealing with students, a broad range of people from different backgrounds, economic conditions. Some people have very good technology, some people have no technology. And we have to find a way to give an even experience to everybody,” Moses said.

### Small school, big challenges

Over the years, NetApp hardware and ONTAP has been the go-to for managing structured data. As more workloads have shifted to virtual machines, NetApp storage has been consolidated. The combination has been central to low-touch management of data, as well as a backup and disaster recovery strategy that is crucial in south Florida.

“When the last two hurricanes hit, the campus itself was shut down,” Moses said. “With our blend of how we’re backing up and how we are doing DR with NetApp, we had 100 percent of our critical IT services operational for the entire duration of the hurricane. No downtime whatsoever.”

Barry University is using NetApp HCI for the large volumes of unstructured data created across the campus environment. The ability to quickly add capacity to adjust for demand is both a cost consideration and an operational benefit.

“We can bring up all of our critical infrastructure in literally 10 minutes. Once we update the snapshots, that’s it, we just power it on,” he said. “So having NetApp, has empowered us to be able to have a level of fault tolerance and recoverability that we would not have had. I mean it helps me to sleep well at night because I know everything is redundant and there’s nothing that I have to do to make it work.”

### A pop quiz

In the spring of 2020 when Covid-19 shut down the campus, Moses was able to quickly support changing application demands. Suddenly a campus with few remote users turned into a fully virtual school. Although the transition from NetApp Flexpod® to HCI had been planned for months, the

Covid-19 response was its first major test. From the myBarry portal, students and faculty could still access their applications, but the performance demands skyrocketed to support WebEX based classes, process intensive applications, and as more users logged in at the same time to the portal. Expanding to meet demand was easy, Moses said.

“We bought another blade for the HCI - mostly for video and graphics - stuck it in there. Now we’re able to fully support all the 3D applications on top of fully scaling out to support a hundred percent of the students and a hundred percent of the classes, just adding one blade to the HCI infrastructure. So it gave us that scalability. It literally took 10 minutes to put it in and get it configured.”

NetApp’s ongoing technical and strategic support means Moses trusts the NetApp offerings. He’s investigating more cloud strategies, such as using Azure NetApp Files, for potential compliance and cyber-ransom protection in the future.

### Big data on campus

“The partnership is hard to replace, there is no way that I can just justify switching because we’ve gotten so much more than just a storage unit from NetApp,” Moses said.

After two more post-shutdown enrollment cycles and a slow return to more on-campus activities, Moses reports that the availability and performance of the data fabric has been an invisible force keeping the school in operation. In an unpredictable year, he was able to focus on service delivery and not the infrastructure supporting the applications and 200-plus databases he manages.

“I hate to think if we were back with the SAN drives or something else. I mean, once you tune the QoS (quality of service) with the NetApp HCI,” he said, searching for the right bit of IT-speak and settling instead on student-speak.

### NetApp products

- [NetApp ONTAP](#)
- [NetApp HCI](#)



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### About NetApp

In a world full of generalists, NetApp is a specialist. We’re focused on one thing, helping your business get the most out of your data. NetApp brings the enterprise-grade data services you rely on into the cloud, and the simple flexibility of cloud into the data center. Our industry-leading solutions work across diverse customer environments and the world’s biggest public clouds. As a cloud-led, data-centric software company, only NetApp can help build your unique data fabric, simplify and connect your cloud, and securely deliver the right data, services and applications to the right people—anytime, anywhere. To learn more, visit [www.netapp.com](http://www.netapp.com)

