



# TCMC<sup>®</sup>

THE COMMONWEALTH  
MEDICAL COLLEGE

Based in the Scranton, Pennsylvania, the **Commonwealth Medical College (TCMC)** is one of the nation's newest, fully accredited medical colleges. The college, which is independent and unaffiliated with any other college or university, offers a community-

based model of medical education with three regional campuses in Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, and Williamsport.

TCMC attracts students from within its 17-county region, across Pennsylvania, and across the country who are interested in studying evidence- and community-based medicine and who have a strong desire to serve their community.

The college offers a Doctor of Medicine (MD) program and a Master of Biomedical Sciences (MBS) program. TCMC graduated its first class of medical students in 2014.

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## THE NEED

In late October 2012, Superstorm Sandy hit the Eastern Seaboard of the United States, coming ashore near Atlantic City, New Jersey. The storm wreaked havoc across 24 states, primarily in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast, including parts of Pennsylvania near Scranton and Wilkes-Barre. More than 8 million residents lost power.

Ultimately, the storm caused damages of more than \$50 billion, making it the second costliest natural disaster in the US — second only to Hurricane Katrina.

While the Scranton and Wilkes-Barre areas were hit nowhere near as hard as New Jersey and New York, the storm and its aftermath prompted TCMC's leadership team to rethink disaster recovery and business continuity.

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John Kearney, senior director of technology and administrative systems at TCMC, said the team had been discussing the importance of disaster recovery and business continuity for years, but Sandy made it a priority.

"Enough of this, we've been talking about this for years," he recalls thinking at the time.

As an independent entity, TCMC does not have its own in-house capabilities to mitigate risk without a sizeable investment, making the need an even bigger priority.

The college has upwards of 700 students, staff, faculty and other users, and needs to securely store administrative data, human resources data, including social security numbers, as well as student information. In addition, the college's third and fourth-year students study off-site and need ready access to files.

In short, like any school, organization or business, TCMC could never afford to have its systems down and have its people without access.

"We cannot be down a week or two at a time," Kearney said.

They engaged Site2, and developed a solution for TCMC by taking a consultative approach. The team sought to understand what was on TCMC's servers, what data the college needed access to immediately, and what data could wait two or three days, if needed. Determining which data takes priority during the restoration process was important, and something Site2's competitors did not do.

## THE SOLUTION

Site2 recommended a solution that included software tools and 10 TB of back-up data storage at a remote, secondary location in Northern Virginia. Software tools include Asigra Cloud to back-up the college's servers and Veeam back-up and replication to protect their virtual machines (VMs) and to reserve standby virtual machines for fail-over capabilities. In addition, Microsoft Exchange replication tools are used to replicate the college's email data from their inhouse email servers to the secondary server in McLean, Va.

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Now that the disaster recovery and business continuity solution is in place, Kearney can rest easier knowing that the college will be able to avert any data loss and the multiple risks associated with such a loss.

By working with Site2, TCMC avoided the cost of having to manage disaster recovery and business continuity on its own. It also was able to work with a local company and avoid the need to work with other, non-local cloud providers.

"It helps that Site2 is local," Kearney said.

But having the college's data back-up at a non-local data center in McLean, Va., was an even bigger plus, providing true peace of mind, he added.

Kearney said the relationship with Site2 has been very positive. He feels secure with the solution, and feels it's a partnership that could last for the longer-term, possibly 10 to 20 years.

The ability of Site2 to truly collaborate with TCMC and find a solution right for the college was especially appreciated, Kearney added.

"That was admirable right out of the gate," he said.

Now that the disaster recovery and business continuity solution is in place, Kearney can rest easier knowing that the college will be able to avert any data loss and the multiple risks associated with such a loss.

Hopefully, TCMC will never need it, but it's good to know the college has it, just in case, Kearney added.

"It's just like buying health insurance for your family," he said. "You hope you never have to use it."

**Ready to Get Started? Call Site2 today  
at 877-SITE-TWO (748-3896) or email [sales@site2.com](mailto:sales@site2.com).**