



Northwest Iowa
Community College

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NEWS RELEASE

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Mobile Health Simulation Training Lab at Northwest Iowa Community College

Northwest Iowa Community College Nursing Program students experienced the excitement of Mobile Simulation Lab training April 19-21. Each NCC nursing student received four hours of training in the mobile lab with the training going from 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. each day. All of NCC's nursing students were a part of this experience and training.

The Mobile SimLab1 featured a fully-equipped training room that utilizes the latest in high fidelity simulation training technology. There are high fidelity mannequins that respond both through verbal communication and bodily function to what the nurses are saying and doing to the mannequin. The mobile lab provided the opportunity to develop team-building and leadership skills. With this technology, it is possible to bring together nurses in real-world critical care scenarios where teamwork is essential to achieving the desired outcome. After all the training sessions the trainees had debriefing sessions so they could have immediate feedback on their performances.

The NCC nursing students faced three scenarios. The first was a regular baby delivery with a major hemorrhage after the birth. The second was a mother in septic shock at 30 weeks of pregnancy. The third was a standard level one cardiac arrest including defibrillation and medicine administration.

Sarah Liston, Extended Practical Nursing Student, Ireton, commented, "I think this kind of training was great! It is very interesting – the hands on experience of it all. I learn so much more using a hands-on approach rather than just learning about different scenarios in books. In a regular classroom you can quiz yourself on what you should do given a certain written scenario but, in that case, you have time to sit and think about what you should do without any pressure of a person bleeding to death right in front of you. We had to constantly assess everything going on with the patient and make quick decisions. The mannequins talk to you like a real person, bleed in front of you like a real person and could possibly die in front of you if you don't provide the right care."

Tracey Overmann, Simulation Training Coordinator, said, "I've been training nursing professionals for 15 years. Bringing mannequin and simulator technology to students is just like being in an actual ER with an emergency situation. The mannequins can talk, bleed, and die. If the student gives the mannequin too much morphine it will react like a person would. The students need to know how to identify the problem and what to do to counteract the effects of the morphine." Overmann continued, "If the students don't handle a situation correctly and the "patient" is crashing we can stop the simulation, talk about what they did and what they need to do to correct the problem, and start the simulation again. Nobody was hurt and the student learned a lot. It is the most lifelike situation you can put a student in without the possibility of hurting or even killing someone."

Ruth Hobson, Director of Nursing Education, stated, "After our experience with the Mobile Simulation Lab from Ridgewater Community College last year, the nursing faculty knew it was going to be imperative that the lab return this year. The experiences the students have in the lab are phenomenal and we need to continue to offer these experiences to our students in the years to come. Simulation is becoming an integral part of a nursing curriculum so if it is not included in our curriculum, we will be "behind the times". The simulation lab allows the students to experience "real life" situations in a safe environment. If they make a mistake, they can talk about it and learn from it without hurting anyone.



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The students develop skills that are necessary in caring for patients in a crisis situation as well as learning to work as a team using delegation and prioritization skills. The simulation experience allows the students to gain confidence and grow both intellectually and emotionally. The simulation lab is truly a learning experience that our students will never forget.”

Research shows that the hands-on nature of simulation training is more effective than only classroom based education. SimLab1 utilizes some of the most advanced training tools and techniques available. Coupled with the proven effectiveness of simulation-based training, students were able to utilize practice-based education versus theory-based. The amount of different simulations is endless. The simulations are custom programmed for each client depending on what the intended educational intent is.

To learn more about NCC’s Health Programs or to receive your free copy of the NCC Viewbook, contact the Admissions office at studentservices@nwicc.edu or call 324-5061, 800-352-4907. Or visit our website at www.nwicc.edu. At NCC There’s a Place For You!