



Northwest Iowa
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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 17-19. This is the third year NCC's nursing students have had simulation training. 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 graduating Practical Nursing and Associate Degree 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 students participated in two scenarios this year. The first one included a teen mom using drugs who did not know she was pregnant but then delivered a pre-term baby. The students were responsible for caring for a very sick baby and a mom with a many issues. The second scenario was a patient with chest pain who had a cardiac arrest. In this scenario, the students needed to complete a full Code Blue including defibrillation and proper use of emergency medications.

Shelli Van Roekel, Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Student, Maurice, commented, "I think this kind of training is a really good life experience. The simulation forces you to think on your feet and constantly think ahead about what you need to do next. I participated last year as a Practical Nursing Student (PN), so I knew what simulation was all about. One of the biggest differences over last year is now, as an ADN student, I needed to be the one delegating orders to the PN students as it would be in a real ER situation. I learned a lot about delegation and thinking on my feet. It's a great experience to get a taste of what it's like in the field."

Ruth Hobson, Director of Nursing Education, stated, "The NCC Nursing students have an awesome opportunity to experience "real life" situations in a safe environment. This is such a rewarding learning experience for all of them and we are so grateful to the Simulation Lab staff for providing this experience."

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.

If the students don't handle a situation correctly and the "patient" is crashing the SimLab instructors 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.

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, call 324-5061, 800-352-4907 or text THUNDER to 82942. Or visit our website at www.nwicc.edu.
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