

SAINT FRANCIS COLLEGE OF NURSING

Are simulated connections just as good as real ones? At the Saint Francis College of Nursing in Peoria, the answer is "yes."

Thanks in part to \$300,000 in grant funds received in 2011, the College now has six fully operating simulation labs for its almost 600 students. Each lab has a simulation mannequin in a unique setting to better familiarize the nursing students with situations they will encounter during clinicals. Labs include an efficiency apartment for community health nurses; a standard hospital room; an ICU; an emergency department; a doctor's office; and a family lab for OB and pediatrics.

The bedside computers use the Epic system now installed in the medical center. Four labs have Pyxis medication dispensing machines, identical to what is found on inpatient floors.

The simulation mannequins have vital signs, talk, present nursing problems and can "tell" the students when a mistake has been made.

According to College of Nursing President Patricia Stockert, RN, MSN, Ph.D., the connection from simulations to real world is all about safety. "The focus in these labs is to ensure quality patient care in a safe environment. Our upgrade in 2011 helps our students become the best nurses possible."

Simulations and real life ... connecting for our patients.

Other highlights:

Leadership changes:

Patricia Stockert, RN, MSN, Ph.D., assumed presidency of the college upon the retirement of Lois Hamilton, RN, Ph.D. Dr. Hamilton had served the college for 14 years.

Sue Brown, RN, Ph.D., DNP, replaced Patricia Stockert as dean of the undergraduate program. Dr. Brown had been a faculty member since 1993.