



N E W S El Camino College Compton Center
Public Relations Department | 16007 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance, CA 90506
Tel: 310-660-3406 | Fx: 310-660-3946 | Contact: Ann M. Garten | agarten@elcamino.edu

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Practice Makes Perfect for Nursing Students in the New Simulation Lab At El Camino College Compton Center

El Camino College Compton Center's nursing program provides real world clinical type scenarios right on campus to give students the training and experience they need. The new wireless, high fidelity, human patient simulation lab, which has the look and feel of a hospital unit, had its grand opening in April. The room was filled with Compton Center nursing students and more than 30 visiting students who are potential candidates for bridging into the RN program.

The wireless lab consists of three adults, a child, a newborn and a birthing simulator. The most advanced wireless human patient simulator is "iStan," affectionately known as "Stan." He is a star in his own right, as he has appeared on *Grey's Anatomy* and *The Doctors*. Stan closely mimics the anatomical workings of the human body--he actually breathes, cries, sweats and bleeds. He was the first "patient" of the day and presented with abdominal pains. Blas Gonzales, a third semester nursing student, took his medical history through a two-way conversation, examined him and determined the patient needed further assessment before a diagnosis could be made and treatment be recommended.

Later in the day everyone gathered around to watch the "birth" of a baby. The simulation lab looked like grand rounds at a metropolitan teaching hospital. Compton Center nursing students attended to the "patient" who was in labor, as a nursing instructor guided them through the process. Students were also responsible for the care of the "newborn."

The wireless patient simulators make it possible to generate authentic care experiences in real time from basic assessment to complex multi-organ failure for students at all levels of the nursing program.

Wanda Morris, dean of health and human services and assistant director of nursing at Compton Center, says: "We provide an individualized approach to meet the needs of each student. The simulation lab will prepare our nursing students with real life experiences so they may perform more effectively and confidently in a clinical setting and in an emergency situation."

One student, Anielka Balizun-Moreno, remarked that the simulation lab provided her with "a good visualization of a hospital setting." She said: "It decreased my anxiety and helped me a lot."

Another student, Andrea Arceri, agreed that having the skills and experience before you go into a hospital helps her learn “the signs and symptoms to look for” on an obstetrics rotation.

Shirley Thomas, a nursing instructor, says: “This new technology facilitates a continuity of learning between the classroom and the clinical setting, and students can return to the lab for additional practice to gain confidence.”

For information about the nursing program, call Kayla Ellis at 310-900-1600, ext. 2700.

El Camino College Compton Center is accredited and serving the educational needs of our community. Students can earn an associate degree, transfer to a four-year university or receive career training. Fees are only \$20 per unit. The college catalog, class schedule, evening and weekend college offerings are available in-person or online at www.compton.edu. Compton Center is located at 1111 E. Artesia Boulevard, Compton, CA; 310-900-1600.

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