

NEWS RELEASE

PHOTOS ATTACHED

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University of Saint Mary One of the First Colleges in Area to Get High-Tech Human Simulator Patient



USM nursing students Amy Espinosa (left) and Leah Huss get their first look at METI-Man while Assistant Professor of Nursing Rebecca Cahill explains some of METI-Man's capabilities.

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—The University of Saint Mary Nursing Department has just received a very special delivery expected to help nursing students excel—a simulator known as METI-man. METI-man is a human patient simulator created by Medical Educational Technologies, Inc. (METI). METI-man blinks, speaks, and breathes, has a heartbeat and a pulse, and accurately mirrors human responses to such procedures as CPR, intravenous medication, intubation, ventilation, and catheterization.

METI human patient simulators are quickly becoming the gold standard in education by providing an innovative learning environment where nursing students can practice clinical and critical thinking skills. Saint Mary is only the third nursing program in the Kansas City Metropolitan area to acquire a METI-man simulator. The other two schools are Johnson County Community College and the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

“It is very important to us that our students have access to the very latest equipment and technology. At every level of patient care, hands-on experience is the best teacher,” said Dr. Karen Fernengel, USM dean of nursing. “METI-man delivers that experience in true-to-life scenarios that swiftly change to meet our instructors’ goals. When students are given the opportunity to practice on simulators without fear of harming a real person, the result is increased self-confidence, which ultimately leads to higher competence.”

METI has been producing human patient simulators geared toward educating medical students for over a decade. METI-man is designed to act and react just as a human patient would under the same circumstances. METI-man is hooked up to a computer, which dictates how and when he acts.

“We are able to program METI-man to do just about anything we want,” Dr. Fernengel said. “The variety of diseases and health care situations METI-man can produce are essential for our students to witness first hand. METI-Man can ingest and pass liquids. Students can start IVs and give medications to see how the body responds. Vital signs are displayed on a computer screen, where changes in his condition can be easily monitored. METI-man will help make our students better nurses.”

METI-man cost \$80,000, which was acquired by Saint Mary by a grant from the Goppert Foundation. Jack Schultz, central regional manager of Medical Educational Technologies, Inc., trained the Saint Mary nursing faculty in how to operate the simulator. “This dramatically functional mannequin exhibits clinical signals so lifelike that students have been known to cry when it ‘dies,’” said Schultz. “You have an easily controlled teaching laboratory where students can practice again and again, until the highest-quality patient care becomes second nature.”

METI-man comes with the name Stan for “standard man,” but schools generally pick their own name for METI-man. Nursing students from the inaugural class of 2008 will vote on METI-man’s name later this semester.

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