

NEWS RELEASE

News Contact:

Cathy Summa-Wolfe, College of Marin, 415-485-9528, cathy.summawolfe@marin.edu

New Clinical Simulation Center at IVC Gets a Boost

Kaiser Permanente, Marin General Hospital, Novato Community Hospital, Sonoma State University, and College of Marin Share Vision for Collaborative Healthcare Team Training Facility

Novato, CA – Oct. 2, 2006 – Generous gifts from local healthcare industry partners – Kaiser Permanente San Rafael Medical Center, Marin General Hospital, and Sonoma State University – have advanced College of Marin’s plans to open a state-of-the-art Clinical Simulation Center at College of Marin’s Indian Valley Campus in Novato, a collaborative effort to improve healthcare in the region.

Kaiser Permanente San Rafael has contributed \$30,000; Marin General Hospital and Novato Community Hospital have contributed \$25,000; and Sonoma State University has provided a loan of \$300,000 in high-tech simulators.

“It is through the generosity of these founding partners that our community will have this terrific new resource to enhance the skills of healthcare professionals and first responders,” said Frances L. White, Ph.D., College of Marin superintendent and president.

The new center, scheduled to open in spring 2007, uniquely will offer Marin County healthcare professionals and students from COM, Sonoma State University, and Dominican University first-hand experience in emergency situations. It will be the only such training center in the county offering learning opportunities for both healthcare professionals and students. The center will also help reduce a bottleneck in rotations that has limited the capacity of participating schools to produce more nurses with needed clinical skills.

“The center will give us a chance to hone emergency team responses in ways that are unique to this environment,” said Jill Magri, chief operations officer, Kaiser Foundation Hospital in San Rafael. “In the real world, you can’t insert students and trainees into the middle of a car wreck and tell them to try out their skills and see how it goes.”

As co-chair of the Healthcare Task Force of the Workforce Investment Board of Marin County, Magri is helping lead fundraising efforts and the development of an extraordinary collaborative partnership behind the center. In addition to, Kaiser Permanente, Marin General Hospital and Sonoma State University, partners include Novato Community Hospital, Dominican University of California, the Coastal Health Alliance’s Point Reyes Medical Clinic and local police and fire agencies.

“The whole point is to get everyone in the county’s healthcare and emergency response world on the same team so that when major incidents occur we already know how to work together to save lives,” Magri said.

The center will have high-tech manikins – three “adults,” a “child,” and a “birthing mother” – that can simulate a wide variety of bodily functions such as heartbeats, bleeding, respiratory functions and simulate speech interaction.

Michele Quigley-Martinez, Chief Nursing Officer at Marin General Hospital and David Bradley, CEO indicated that their contribution demonstrates their commitment to supporting education excellence in nursing, an MGH priority.

The National Institute of Medicine reports that more than 100,000 lives a year are lost in preventable medical errors, many of which occur because emergency teams haven't practiced in emergency and team situations.

“A key recommendation is to increase the use of simulation technology to improve team training and skills,” said Nanda Schorske, dean of Workforce Development and College-Community Partnerships at College of Marin. “We think this will make a major difference in healthcare outcomes.”

The program will also open up a pathway for nurses to move from their associate degrees in nursing to master's degrees at a four-year university. The California Board of Registered Nurses allows student nurses to use simulation lab environments for up to 25 percent of their required clinical rotations.

“Now we will have a facility and a program that's on a par with anything in the region,” Schorske said.

For more information please contact Nanda Schorske, COM Dean of Workforce Development and Community Partnerships, (415) 883-2211, Ext. 8506, nanda.schorske@marin.edu.