NURSING

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Certificate program. The only such program of its kind in Georgia, the graduate certificate program teaches healthcare educators from around the state how to administer simulation training programs of their own in accordance with national and international standards.

In addition to increasing Sim Center faculty and staff, the $2 million will pay for new equipment, including 21 high-fidelity manikin patient simulators, nine hybrid simulation devices to be worn by actors serving as patients, 28 hospital beds, IV pumps, a 3D printer and more.



UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

GCSU nursing students practice a code on one of the simulation manikins in the Simulation and Translational Research Center.

"GCSU is recognized as a leader in simulation-based education in Georgia," said Dr. Shawn Little, University System of Georgia associate vice chancellor for healthcare education. "This grant will support the expansion of program offerings, increasing access to high-quality simulation training and providing more educators with opportunities to enhance their expertise and instructional capabilities."

The state's projected workforce shortage is due to training access limitations, as well as an aging workforce. The Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce says roughly 40% of Georgia nurses are age 50 or older.

Georgia College opened the newly renovated Sim Center last fall, growing from a 6,000-square-foot space to one more than double that size to supply School of Nursing and College of Health Sciences students with more clinical hours. The innovative facility has dedicated spaces that mimic medical office settings, immersing students into various healthcare environments.

GCSU's simulation program provides over 33,000 clinical hours to the School of Nursing annually. Sim Center Executive Director Dr. Sterling Roberts says the added personnel and equipment obtained through the grant could increase that total to 38,000 hours annually thanks to additional high-level undergraduate nursing courses.

"In their last semester of the undergraduate nursing program, our students will be able to register for advanced simulation classes that will be focused on critical and emergent, obstetric, pediatric or psychiatric care," Roberts said. "We're going to advance their knowledge beyond what the traditional graduate has, supporting a more work-ready nurse entering the field."

In October, the Sim Center celebrated another milestone by earning full accreditation from the Society for Simulation in Healthcare. Full accreditation by SSH makes GCSU only the second institution within the University System of Georgia to earn this level of recognition.

he new $2 million in funding was awarded by the University System of Georgia through the Georgia Department of Community Health's GREAT Health Program The Georgia Rural Enhancement and Transformation of Health (GREAT) Health Program is supported by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling $218,862,169.63 with 100% funded by CMS/HHS.

GCSU nursing program earns $2 million grant

Staff reports
The Baldwin Bulletin

The nursing program at Georgia College & State University already is one of the best in the Southeast, and now it's adding another notch in its belt.

GCSU recently was granted $2 million to become the state's hub for healthcare simulation training, marking an investment to expand the state of Georgia's medical training infrastructure and get nurses into the workforce faster.

The grant comes at an opportune time, as Georgia is currently projected to face a 12,370-nurse shortage by the end of 2026 – a 12% workforce gap, according to the Health Resources and Services Administration.

The grant will create seven new faculty and staff positions at the Sim Center, which will double the enrollment capacity in Georgia College's accredited Healthcare Simulation

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