

Simulated manikin allows illnesses on command

MCC nursing students get hands-on training in a no-risk setting

MCC Nursing Instructor Tracy Zamarron uses the Baby Luna simulated manikin as a teaching tool.

By Shelly Springborn

The use of a high-fidelity baby simulation manikin allows students in Montcalm Community College's nursing program to experience illnesses on command in a no-risk setting.

The Baby Luna simulated manikin provides a complete range of options for essential training in the care and medical treatment of babies. Built on a scalable platform to meet critical health care education objectives and compliance requirements in newborn nursing, Baby Luna enables students to practice and gain proficiency in newborn assessment, neonatal resuscitation, advanced life support and more.

Danielle Anderson, M.S.N., Dean of Nursing & Health Careers at MCC, said Baby Luna provides endless opportunities for learning.

"It's portable and it's realistic," Anderson said. "It gives a well-rounded experience for students to work with.

"The goal for any simulated manikin is for students to learn, make mistakes, and do it again so they are learning in that environment before they get out into the real world," she added.

Anderson said MCC is able to provide its nursing students up to 50 percent of overall clinical instruction using on-campus virtual simulation, and up to 100 percent in specialty areas such as mental health, OB and pediatrics.

In addition, she said the simulated manikin technology allows students to experience situations they may not experience in a clinical setting.

"We use the term low-volume, high-risk in the clinical setting. Health care professionals may see one or two real-life patients during their career that have something occur that is high risk. There are illnesses and conditions that just aren't seen very often," Anderson said.

"With Baby Luna, we can mimic symptomology as we want to. You can't do that with a real live baby. You're going to see a baby in a clinical setting as is. With the manikin, we can create the environment we want to create for the students to learn," she added.

"The Foundation Board is committed to serving MCC's students and the community by supporting needs such as this that provide leading-edge opportunities for instruction," said MCC Foundation Executive Director Lisa Lund. "With changing needs in the workplace, and especially in health care, we are trying to ensure our students have the tools they need that provide unique opportunities for hands-on training." **Q**