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Healthcare Initiative Foundation Provides Grant to Montgomery College to Support Nursing Simulation Project

College to Develop Web-based Training Resource for Nursing Schools and Hospitals

The Healthcare Initiative Foundation has awarded Montgomery College's nursing program with a \$17,100 grant to create a Web site that will assist nursing schools and hospitals with nurse training. The Web site will feature patient simulation scenarios, or scripts, that can help teach students how to respond appropriately and think critically when caring for patients or responding to emergency situations.

In nursing education, faculty and students simulate real-life scenarios by using life-sized mannequins as mock patients, along with a computerized interface and video component. Creating the scenarios takes time and nursing faculty must plan, review literature to incorporate the latest evidence base, write a storyboard, list props, design moulage (injury or illness-related elements that make the scenario as realistic as possible), and formulate debriefing questions. A lack of time and resources may be a barrier for nursing programs to fully implement scenarios as a training tool.

"Montgomery College and the nursing program are so grateful for the generous support of the Healthcare Initiative Foundation," says Barbara Nubile, associate dean and director of nursing at Montgomery College. "We look forward to offering this training resource to the health care profession to support improved patient care.

The Healthcare Initiative Foundation grant will support Montgomery College's creation of a Web site with twelve scenarios for medical-surgical, pediatric, maternal-child, and mental health simulations. Scenarios will be developed in consultation with hospitals in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area that serve as clinical partners for the College's nursing program. By posting the simulations online, other nursing schools, hospitals and health care facilities will be able to access the site and use its content for free. The College will also encourage other nursing programs to upload and share their simulation scripts.

In addition, Montgomery College's television station will create videos of five of the scenarios for the Web site. Professors at Montgomery College and other nursing programs will be able to view the video scenarios in addition to the written scenarios.

"The Healthcare Initiative Foundation supports creative solutions to health care issues," said Karen Green, executive director of the foundation. "Montgomery College is a well-respected leader in training our area's health care workforce. The simulation script Web site will leverage grant funds to serve a local, regional and national purpose in training new nurses that ultimately improves patient care."

Montgomery College’s nursing program currently enrolls 300 students annually at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. Students who successfully complete the nursing curriculum earn an associate of science degree (A.S.) in nursing and are qualified to take the examination to be licensed as a registered nurse. The nursing program also participates in the Maryland Articulation Model, which allows students to transfer to a four-year state college or university to complete a bachelor’s degree in nursing. For more information about Montgomery College’s nursing program, visit: <http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/Departments/nursing/>.

The Healthcare Initiative Foundation is a nonprofit, grant making trust governed by an independent, volunteer board of trustees. The Foundation has assets approaching \$40 million, gives nearly \$2 million in grants annually. The Foundation supports organizations that offer solutions to improve the quality and delivery of healthcare for residents of Montgomery County, Maryland. For more information about the Healthcare Initiative Foundation, visit: <http://www.hifmc.org>.

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Montgomery College is a public, open admissions community college with campuses in Germantown, Rockville, and Takoma Park/Silver Spring, plus workforce development/continuing education centers and off-site programs throughout Montgomery County, Md. The College serves nearly 60,000 students a year, through both credit and noncredit programs, in more than 100 areas of study.