



**PRESS RELEASE: School of Nursing Receives \$102,000 Grant for High Fidelity Simulation Program**

**Sandy C Gholston** to: Archive

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Included below is a press release regarding a grant that was received for Ferris State University's School of Nursing from the Michigan Nursing Corporation and Michigan Strategic Fund for simulation technology. Any questions about this release can be directed to Sandy Gholston, interim assistant director of News Services.

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**School of Nursing Receives \$102,000 Grant for High Fidelity Simulation Program**

BIG RAPIDS – Ferris State University received a \$102,000 Simulation Technology grant for the School of Nursing from the Michigan Nursing Corporation and Michigan Strategic Fund.

The grant will be used to fully operate a new simulation lab at Ferris. Mary Alkire, Ferris nursing faculty, said the advanced simulation lab will provide a bridge between classroom and clinical experiences.

“The grant will help our students become better clinical nurses. Learning to become a nurse is complicated. Students not only need to have the knowledge to provide safe patient care, but they also must provide safe nursing care,” she said.

The new simulation classroom gives students the opportunity to respond to the fidelity simulation model, which hosts new simulation manikins called Sim Man, Sim Mom, Sim Junior and Sim Baby. These advanced technology pieces mimic real life situations and can be altered and changed based on a student’s response.

“It offers learning in a safe environment and challenges the student to think and act as they would as a nurse,” said Alkire, who wrote the grant. “Fidelity refers to the degree to which the simulation encounters or simulation equipment approaches reality.”

She explained how this high fidelity interaction occurs in a “very real manner” and strengthens the students critical thinking, problem solving and decision making skills. The Ferris Nursing Program has always used simulation methods for teaching nursing skills such as manikins, injection pads and other tools to help students practice basic skills.

“I feel it is a great opportunity for the Ferris Nursing Program to offer educational experiences to our students, which will help them to become safe nurses who deliver quality patient care. It is

an exciting time to be a nurse educator,” Alkire said.

She believes the simulation learning opportunities at Ferris make the Nursing Program stronger and more competitive within Michigan and will help students achieve their goals of entering the nursing profession.

To learn more about the nursing program at Ferris visit  
<http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/colleges/alliedhe/Nursing/homepage.htm>.

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