



INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Rhode Island College will employ technology, transparency, communication, collaboration and innovation in our management of information and resources to foster a shared commitment to seeking the best and highest use of resources to achieve success.



RIC's New School of Nursing Wing

– By Gita Brown

Rhode Island College now has a new School of Nursing wing in the Fogarty Life Science Building.

This \$6.3 million, 9,190-square-foot wing was funded by a \$50 million bond approved in 2012 for the renovation of three RIC buildings: Craig-Lee Hall, Gaige Hall and Fogarty Life Science. Fogarty Life Science is the first to be completed.

“One of our emerging themes here at RIC is ‘learning innovation,’” said RIC President Frank D. Sánchez. “Boasting the latest technology in nursing simulation, this facility demonstrates what our college is capable of when you combine one of the nation’s best nursing programs, top-notch faculty and the collective investment made by Rhode Islanders.”

Though RIC has the largest baccalaureate nursing program in the state, “we were well below the guidelines for square footage per student in our classroom, laboratory, office and student gathering space,” said Dean of the School of Nursing

Jane Williams. “We also needed a distinctive building for our school as well as an updated simulation area.”

Now most of the simulation learning activities have moved to the new wing. There is a simulation lab for health assessment and fundamental skills training, as well as a human patient simulator lab, where life-like, computer-driven mannequins with physiologic responses mimic real patients. Additionally, there is a control room with state-of-the-art equipment and computers that control the software system installed in the simulation rooms.

Williams explained that simulation learning is the most effective way to prepare students to take care of real patients. RIC and Yale have the only accredited nursing school simulation labs in the Northeast.

The new wing includes offices for the dean, the undergraduate department chair and program directors, administrative staff and the simulation coordinator/educator. In the lobby is a gathering space, where students can hold small group meetings or simply socialize.

“In so many ways, the new wing will help us continue to educate outstanding nurses who serve Rhode Island,” said Williams. “Our students reflect the social, ethnic and economic diversity of the state and our faculty encourage a cooperative, collegial learning environment that benefits all.”

RIC’s School of Nursing has had numerous benchmark successes over the years. Its R.N. to B.S.N. program has been ranked #1 in New England and 10th out of more than 700 programs in the United States by www.RNtoBSN.org.

The pass rate of B.S.N. graduates on the NCLEX-RN licensure examination is consistently above state and national averages, and RIC graduates are being accepted to prestigious nurse residency programs in Rhode Island and across the nation.

M.S.N. graduates also continue to have high pass rates on their certification exams and the graduate-level certified registered nurse anesthetists program was awarded the highest level of accreditation allowed.

This past year the school also established a new Doctor of Nursing Practice program this year and is partnering with the Providence VA Medical Center on a post-baccalaureate residency program.



From top: Nursing students focus on in-class lecture, receive instruction in the Simulation Center and gather in the lobby.

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