

## **HOMESTEAD OPENS STATE-OF-THE-ART CLINICAL SKILLS LAB FOR VN STUDENT**

An important part of the vocational nursing program is helping students acquire clinical skills necessary in the performance of their duties as an LVN. The curriculum mandates that the students spend 960 hours in a clinical setting and 672 hours in a classroom. Homestead has affiliation agreements with various long-term care facilities as well as acute and sub-acute clinics and hospitals where the students acquire hands-on experience in assisting and monitoring patients; vital signs, including their blood pressure, pulse, respiration and temperature. Other tasks that LVNs are responsible for include giving enemas, recording intake and output of foods and fluids, collecting samples for testing, maintaining equipment, dressing wounds, treating bedsores and giving massages. They also assist patients in getting dressed, bathing, eating, walking and standing.

According to the U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics, licensed vocational nurses earned a median of \$43,170 in 2015. In the same year the highest-paid ten percent earned \$59,510 or more, while the lowest-paid ten percent earned \$32,040 or less. In 2014, the BLS predicted 16% growth of employment for licensed vocational nurses through 2024, which is faster than average. Part of the vocational nursing curriculum requires students to spend 48 hours learning maternity and pediatric nursing clinical skills which generally can only be done in a hospital setting. Most hospital do not employ LVNs in their maternity or pediatric wards, so any skills training on LVN would acquire only be through observations and discussions.

Homestead has solved their clinical problem by building a clinical simulation laboratory on campus which uses simulation laboratory on campus which uses simulation as teaching strategy to mirror real-life situations and complement clinical education that will allow students to learn by doing and by reflecting on their experience.

The simulation lab includes an area for birthing and pediatric simulations. The school has purchased a birthing simulator (we call her advanced Lucy) and another nursing kid vital Sim capable. These are high tech mannequins with strategically embedded cameras and microphones to capture student's interactions with simulated patients.



The equipment provides a comprehensive and realistic birthing experience from prenatal to postnatal delivery scenarios encompassing normal and abnormal deliveries.

As for pediatrics training, the school has bought a mannequin realistically representing a six-year-old child designed for skill-and scenario-based training for the care and management of a variety of in-hospital pediatric patients. Training includes sound auscultation, IV cannulation, urinary catheterization and general pediatric patient care. This simulated mannequin is ideal for learning in-hospital pediatric clinical skills including wound assessment and care, first aid and child-abuse training.

Simulations and care scenarios are designed to help students develop problem-solving and decision-making skills. In healthcare education simulation tries to replicate some or nearly of the essential aspects of a clinical situation so that it is more readily understood and managed when it occurs in an actual patient setting.

Homestead Schools is excited about having made this investment in its students' learning and is confident that it will pay hefty dividends when its graduates enter into their healthcare careers. If you're planning such a career, we invite you to visit the school, meet with one of the student counselors, take a tour of the campus including this new Sims lab and decide for yourself if this is something you'd like to pursue. The school is located at 23800 Hawthorne Blvd., Torrance, Calif. (310) 791 -9975