

## MCCC's manikin admitted to hospital in partnership to enhance nursing skills

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When nursing students visit Anne in her hospital room at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital-Hamilton, they take her vital signs and check her heart and lung function, but they may also have to perform a tracheotomy, or help feed her if she's had a stroke.

Anne, no ordinary patient, is a \$10,000 manikin used by nursing students at Mercer County Community College. The 80-pound anatomical model was given the name "Nursing Anne" by Laerdal Medical, the company that creates manikins like Anne as well as other products for health care providers and educators.

Anne is the product of a partnership between MCCC and the hospital that was celebrated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony yesterday.

When the college expanded its nursing program to online students last fall, it needed to partner with an acute care hospital so that students, supervised by instructors, could practice their skills.

MCCC provided the manikin and the hospital provided the space — a room on the second floor slated for outpatient testing.

"This is a double-win for the whole community," said MCCC president Patricia Donohue. "They get great learning experiences and work here, and the hospital gets students who are better prepared," she said.

More than 1,500 students are waiting to get into the two-year nursing program at MCCC, said Linda Martin, the college's dean of science and health professionals and dean of nursing education.

More than 275 students are enrolled in the nursing major, and about 20 of them participate in the online program. The online students don't have to attend classes at the college's West Windsor campus, Martin said.

Anne, which has reservoirs to store liquids, comes complete with simulated lungs and stomach, can "breathe," and have "bowel movements."

Using a wireless remote, instructors can create and edit various scenarios, allowing students to access such problems as abnormal breathing or heart tones. They can also administer medication, insert needles and perform other functions, according to hospital and college officials and Laerdal Medical.

"We look forward to lots of good training on it," said Skip Cimino, the hospital's president and CEO, and a trustee of the college. "This is what government and private industry has to do now and in the future," he added.

RWJUH-Hamilton's nursing staff currently is applying for grants to defray the costs of acquiring infant and child manikins, hospital staff said. The total of those grants would be \$65,000.





**Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital-Hamilton nurse educators Erin Glospie, left, and Cindy Russo perform a scenario-based training on "Nursing Anne," Mercer County Community College's manikin provided to the hospital for clinical training.**