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Contact

Mary Lou Brunell

Executive Director

407-823-0980

MaryLou.Brunell@ucf.edu

Florida Healthcare Simulation Alliance Launched to Address Critical Education Needs for Healthcare Workforce

Building on a successful Partners Investing in Nursing's Future (PIN) grant to examine the state of simulation in nursing education in Florida, the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida Foundation and the Florida Center for Nursing established the Florida Healthcare Simulation Alliance. The Alliance will coordinate and expand the use of all forms of simulation in academic settings, healthcare institutions, and agencies across the state to advance healthcare education and to foster patient safety.

To best serve Florida's diverse geography and population, as well as the large number of locations using simulation, the Alliance is building a state model of eight regional collaboratives. These collaboratives will form the core of the Stakeholders Council of the Alliance and a steering committee has been formed among the leadership of each region. All levels of healthcare education and training as well as the simulation and training industry will be involved in regional and statewide activities and collaborations; a general membership drive will take place in fall of 2012. In addition to the regional collaborative, the Alliance is developing statewide special interest groups to focus on areas within a specific discipline or a particular aspect of the use of simulation.

The Alliance is proceeding on schedule to accomplish its first year plan of work. A primary goal of the Alliance is to advocate for the use of simulation as a means to enhance patient safety. To accomplish this goal a number of services and programs are being planned. The first program to be offered by the Alliance is a two day Essentials of Simulation (EOS) course. The course is a product of CAE Healthcare, formerly METI. CAE Healthcare has given the Alliance exclusive rights to offer EOS to Florida residents. The first cadre of Alliance EOS instructors has been trained by CAE Healthcare, and plans are being developed to offer the course in the regions of the state. Going forward, in addition to facilitating networking within and among regions and expanding the activities already initiated, the Alliance will focus on the broad themes of debriefing skills and interdisciplinary teamwork.

Goals

\* Develop a program for faculty and staff development on a regional and statewide level

- \* Establish regional partnerships between academic institutions and healthcare entities to enhance multidisciplinary clinical team competencies through the use of simulation
- \* Encourage and coordinate research to advance the use of simulation to improve positive patient outcomes and quality of care
- \* Develop a core set of simulations that address recommendations and findings of recognized national bodies and organizations such as the Institute of Medicine, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, and Quality and Safety Education for Nurses
- \* Partner with industry in the development and evaluation of new products and services

For more information, please visit the website at: [floridahealthsimalliance.org](http://floridahealthsimalliance.org).

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The mission of FHSA is to advance, coordinate, and expand the use of all forms of simulation in academic settings, healthcare institutions, and agencies across the state to advance healthcare education to foster patient safety. It serves as a resource to facilitate collaboration, networking, and the development and integration of best practices into the delivery of patient care and to improve patient safety.