

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Feb. 23, 2018

A lot of the successes that we have at Pickaway-Ross we owe to partnerships we have with employers in the two counties.

These partnerships come from the work that many of our staff members do as part of or in addition to their jobs.

For example, Avonia Dearth, Adult Education Health Technologies coordinator, has been working with Adena Health System to create a partnership that is benefitting the Practical Nursing program.

Practical Nursing students must practice a number of clinical skills that will be used once they are in the work force. Adult Education's life-size mannequin, Apollo, can be used to present real-life health-care situations that potential patients — male and female — could present.

But he cannot simulate childbirth.

A requirement of the obstetric and pediatric clinical is childbirth, which can be difficult to schedule.

The Board of Nursing recently approved the use of a simulator for students to use to replicate the live experience.

Avonia worked with Adena officials who agreed to let our students use the birthing and newborn simulators at Adena's PACCAR educational building.

Avonia said the partnership has great benefits for students.

"We can create situations that a student may never get (in real life)," Avonia said.

This partnership is just one prong that Avonia gives credit for recent testing scores that exceeded the national average.

"Our clinicals, the curriculum, Apollo and now the



From right, Ryan Ault, Paramedic instructor, Donna Walker, LPN instructor, and Avonia Dearth, Health Technologies coordinator, visit the PACCAR center for a demonstration of the simulation mannequins.

birthing simulator have helped tremendously with our scores."

In addition to the benefits for Practical Nursing students, it's also helped those in the Paramedic program, instructor Ryan Ault said.

"Most EMS students don't get the chance to train for emergency childbirth in a controlled environment. Access to this opportunity is invaluable to them," he said.

Carrie Fife, director of Adult Education, agrees that working with Adena has been great.

"Adena has been a huge help to our students in making sure they get the clinical experiences they need — whether it's with patients or simulators — to be successful in their field," Carrie said.

Pickaway-Ross students who completed the NCLEX-PN test in 2017 had an 84.78 percent pass rate, compared with the national average of 83.85 percent.

Avonia said the state tests critical thinking, which is a key factor in the hands-on skills taught during clinicals.

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