

# Washington County, Oregon Simulation Collaborative

Washington County Emergency Medical Services  
Portland Community College  
Oregon Institute of Technology  
Oregon Health & Science University

The vehicle and associated equipment and expendables are tools to accomplish educational, organizational, and professional goals.







# Primary Driver

To have access to assets that could be procured in a non-redundant fashion by the member public sector agencies.

# Project Development

- Three years in the making
- The concept evolved in parallel with simulation developments state and region-wide
- The concept was always driven to provide value to health professions and allied health education, not just public safety and Emergency Medical Services
- We were all committed to accomplishing the mission

# Principles of the Collaborative

- We are resources to each other
- We are about relationships
- We are about teaching and learning
- We will not let our investments “lie in storage”
- We are evidence-based in our educational pedagogy
- We will suspend disbelief for students (to the degree possible)
- We will not allow technology to trump learning value



# Participant Commitments

- Washington County EMS – vehicle funded by EMS service contract revenues
- Portland Community College – mannequins funded by capital bond dollars
- Oregon Health and Science University – technical (Sim/AV technologist) and M.D. faculty in-kind services
- Oregon Institute of Technology – faculty in-kind services



# Industry Partners

- Braun Northwest – North Star
- Laerdal – mannequin accessories
- Life Assist
- Metro West Ambulance
- Stryker – power gurney
- Karl Storz – fiberoptic CMAC

## Other Organizational Partners

- Oregon Simulation Alliance
- Pacific University of Oregon – College of Health Professions

# The Educational Process

- Principles borrowed from aviation, cognitive psychology, and case-based health care education
- Steps
  - 1) student orientation
  - 2) the simulation exercise
  - 3) debriefing

# The Simulation Exercise

- Planned with teaching/learning intent, BUT flexible depending on student responses –clear development of learning objectives is critical
- Appropriate educator distance is critical
- Accurate recording of events and student responses is critical



# Other dimensions of learning to be explored

- Personal and group decision-making
- Crew resource management
- Human Factors
- Interpersonal and inter-organizational interactions –  
health care = patient hand-off



# Other PCC Programs Presently or Soon to be Using Simulation

- Emergency Medical Services (EMT & Paramedic)
- Medical Assisting – not yet using simulation
- Nursing – early adopter of simulation
- Dental Hygiene/Dental Assistant – using on limited basis
- Emergency Telecommunicator/911 – use a simulated city and communications operations center
- Extended Learning Campus – Advanced Cardiac Life Support

# Our Washington County Stakeholders

- Banks Fire District #13
- Cornelius Rural Fire District
- Forest Grove Rural Fire District
- Gaston Rural Fire District
- Hillsboro Fire Department
- Metro West Ambulance
- School districts
- Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue
- Washington County Fire District 2

# Challenges to Collaboration

- Past inter-organizational histories
- Keeping the “primary driver” in the forebrain
- Different organizational procurement strategies ... followed by different organizational procurement processes
- Liability
- Contracting and legal issues
- Apportioning access
- Not knowing how to “price” services