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For Immediate Release

NURSING STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN POVERTY SIMULATION

Charlotte, NC – On April 21, students enrolled in Carolinas College Maternal-Neonatal Health nursing course accepted an invitation from the nursing department at Queen’s University to attend the Missouri Poverty Simulation along with their Community Health nursing students. Approximately 50 students from the two schools participated.

The simulation experience was created by the Missouri Association for Community Action to educate everyone from policy makers to community leaders, and in this case, healthcare workers, about “the realities of life with a shortage of money and an abundance of stress.”

Participants were given roles of either resource providers or family members in a poverty situation. Resource providers were given instructions and accessories for each community resource including welfare office, pawn shop, school, bank, police station, grocery store and rent/utility collectors. There were 26 family packets, with scenarios created from actual case files from Missouri. Participants were assigned family roles, such as retired disabled grandparents caring for school-aged grandchildren, two parent homes who had lost high income jobs, pregnant teens, etc.

The simulation was designed to represent a month in the life of these families. The weeks were broken into 15 minute intervals in which the participants would go to work or to school in a simulated environment paying for transportation with the precious little money they had, paying for the necessities of daily living and whatever unforeseen issues that might arise.

The Missouri Simulation Project is a copyrighted program that runs approximately three hours including a detailed debriefing. This simulation was coordinated by Crisis Assistance Ministries. All of the participants from Carolinas College attended voluntarily and reported a tremendous impact on their understanding of the lifestyle and stressors facing their low-income patients. Nursing faculty members are exploring ways to incorporate this simulation experience as a regular part of the curriculum.

[Carolinan College of Health Sciences](http://www.CarolinanCollege.edu) (www.CarolinanCollege.edu), recently ranked the number one two-year college in the nation for two consecutive years, offers programs in many areas of health care. Graduates consistently exceed state and national certification testing benchmarks, demonstrating their exceptional preparedness in careers such as medical laboratory science, nursing, radiation therapy, histology, radiologic technology, and surgical technology. The College also offers individual courses in the sciences and liberal arts as well as continuing education programs in professional skills and integrative medicine. Carolinas College offers student access to the Carolinas Simulation Center, a rich collection of high fidelity human patient simulators and procedural task trainers.

Contact: Hampton Hopkins, Carolinas College of Health Sciences, Dean of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, 704-355-5585, hampton.hopkins@CarolinasCollege.edu

Location: Carolinas College of Health Sciences, 1200 Blythe Blvd. Charlotte, NC 28203
www.CarolinasCollege.edu



Alisha Blinck demonstrates the role she played in the simulation