

Simulated Rehab Gym and Lab Will Boost Health Worker Training

PROBLEM

SOLUTION

Health care companies need more highly skilled employees. The Wisconsin Hospital Association states the health care workforce "must grow faster to meet the increased demand." And because preventable safety errors lead to over 100,000 deaths and billions of dollars lost every year, employees must enter the workforce with the best possible training. A rehabilitation gym and lab simulation space is the ideal complement to UWM's Clinical Simulation Center. Investing \$670,000 in the gym and lab will ensure 100% of nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy and athletic training students would graduate with one interprofessional simulation experience every semester.

RESULTS

UWM's students would get training that mimics real-world experiences involving cross-professional teams, but in a safe setting where they can learn from their mistakes. After the project is completed by the end of 2024, more than 600 students would join the workforce every year having learned their craft using some of the latest equipment and technology.



UWM's 22,000-square-foot Ziemer Clinical Simulation Center plays an integral role in preparing health care students to enter the workforce. It allows students from many different specialties to work together in a realistic hospital environment – just as they would after they graduate - and learn skills in a safe environment. The proposed rehabilitation gym and lab simulation space would occupy 1,200 square feet of undeveloped and unfunded space within the center. Students would learn to assess patients and help them transition from hospital to home settings, improving their workforce readiness.

