

CASE STUDY GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Overview

- Teaching nursing faculty needed an easy capture-and-deliver video platform
- Easier way for faculty to evaluate and grades hundreds of nursing students
- IDS extended their VBrick platform as it was already being used elsewhere
- Faculty are able to quickly search for and view student performance
- Easy to scale platform allows Glendale to consider expanding into more areas



As demand for licensed registered nurses rises, there is a corresponding increase in enrollment in nursing programs. While good for Glendale Community College in Glendale, Arizona, it presents challenges for faculty members who must review and grade the individual performances of hundreds of nursing students.

Glendale Community College recently built a state-of-the-art nursing school facility that incorporates four cutting-edge exam rooms and two simulation rooms – each equipped with touchscreen controls, video cameras, microphones, intercom and simulated patients.

These lifelike mannequins can be preprogrammed by instructors to simulate clinical scenarios as well as respond appropriately to the treatment a student decides to apply. They also provide nursing candidates with hands-on training, without putting real patients at risk. One of the most helpful features to both students and faculty is the opportunity for students to practice on the mannequins without having an instructor present. Students are able to record demonstrations of skills and the faculty may then view the recording on-demand and grade behaviors without having to be physically present. With over 400 students and only 22 full-time instructors, these simulation rooms have been a huge time-saver.

“If there’s a faculty member present, the student may defer to them. But when they’re alone, they’re with a real situation,” Said Scott Kozakiewicz, Glendale’s Coordinator of Media Services. “The practice lab and exam rooms enable the student to independently practice as long as they need to ensure competency, and then record their performance when they’re ready.”

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DEBBIE POOLE
DEPARTMENT CHAIR FOR NURSING

Action

Glendale designed its facility to make this as efficient and easy as possible. The challenge was to find a video capture-and-delivery platform that was as easy and intuitive for the college to implement.

VBrick was among the early platforms for consideration. Glendale Community College had already been using the company's EtherneTV portal to push video and digital signage to several campus buildings at their north campus. Kozakiewicz contacted IDS, already a VBrick partner, to find out whether the existing platform could be expanded to the new nursing facility.

IDS returned a proposal that met the needs of students and faculty and was very easy to use with little training necessary. It required eight compact VBrick VBStar encoders – one for each exam room and simulation bed – as well as an on-demand server and supporting video distribution components. The VBrick encoders stored captured video in a Windows Media format, which made it a more adaptable and significantly less expensive solution.

"VBrick technology takes a very straightforward approach, and IDS adapted quickly to our requests," said Kozakiewicz. VBrick's EtherneTV system enabled IDS to make quick changes, including searching for specific student videos.

Results

Students at Glendale now log in, key in the simulation they intend to practice, and the VBrick system automatically begins streaming audio and video to the video distribution server. In turn, faculty can access and review the video with the click of a mouse from any

campus location that provides Internet access. Ultimately, they will be able to access files anywhere they can access the Internet.

"The key is that this technology creates a more realistic setting for the student to practice in and streamlines the recording process," said Deborah Poole, Glendale's Department Chair for Nursing. "Before, we recorded students with a camcorder, and then we'd have to search through the tapes. Access to a VCR was required to view the tapes, and faculty found themselves moving 20-30 videotapes back and forth from home to office."

The automated nature of the system enables students to come in whenever the lab is open. For their part, faculty can choose to stream video to a debriefing room to view with other students or access recorded content at their desk to provide feedback to a particular student.

"It's a time and money thing," said Debbie Poole, Glendale's Department Chair for Nursing. "It's not always cost effective to have one student and one faculty member in the room at the time." Since Glendale opened its new nursing facility, representatives from other schools have come to review the observation pods. "They remark on the ease of the technology," said Kozakiewicz. "The faculty and students don't need to focus on the video recording technology. Once they press the touch panel, the focus is on the simulation. That's a big, big benefit."

Looking ahead, Glendale is considering expanding its campus VBrick platform to its Communications and Emergency Medical Technician programs. "The technology can grow based on your needs," said Kozakiewicz. "Once you've established the main portal and on-demand servers, you can scale the system by adding more bricks. You don't need to recreate a portal or add new formatting. It's a very simple step to grow."

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