



For Immediate Release
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Salus University Cuts Ribbon on New Simulation Lab in Philly Area



During a socially distanced ribbon-cutting event that was livestreamed on Instagram Dec. 1, Salus University President Dr. Michael Mittelman (Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy, retired) and Donna Agnew, Physician Assistant (PA) Studies program director, led a tour of the new state-of-the-art Standardized Patient Simulation Lab on the University's main campus in Elkins Park.

Elkins Park, Pa. — Salus University officials marked the completion of a new 2,200-square-foot standardized patient simulation lab during a small, socially distanced ribbon-cutting event that was livestreamed online Dec. 1 to formally unveil the space.

Funded in part by a \$500,000 grant provided by the Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP), the state-of-the-art learning space includes high-tech collaborative

learning tools, a mock hospital room and model patient examination rooms. The facility is designed as a draw for prospective students who have an interest in becoming future healthcare professionals seeking in-demand jobs such as the physician assistant (PA) profession. The PA profession ranks as one of the top 10 growing professions over the next 10 years as of September 2020, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The expansion supports the University's Physician Assistant (PA) Studies program, allowing the PA program to more than double its clinical lab space. The Clinical Assessment Lab, used for experiential components of the program's physical diagnosis course, includes a 10-bay open area for students to learn the technique of performing a physical examination. The simulation space will allow students to participate in both instruction and practice to improve clinical competence and ultimately patient care. In addition, the new lab includes a conference room for post-simulation student debriefing, a simulated patient lounge and a video control room.

"What we are standing in is literally a state-of-the-art patient simulation lab where all of our students will be able to work in a true clinical setting," University President **Michael Mittelman, OD '80, MPH, MBA, FAAO, FACHE**, said. "This is something that we have had to outsource in the past and now we are going to have the most up-to-date lab in the city."

Simulation lab training allows students to practice their skills in a real healthcare setting. The space will also afford the program the ability to expand the technical procedural skills taught. Currently, students learn how to suture, splint, cast, perform injections and venipuncture, and gain intravenous and arterial access.

"The PA program is so excited to be able to offer this type of space to have students practice their patient care skills on a regular basis," PA program director **Donna Agnew, MSPAS, PA-C, DFAAPA**, said. "We will be able to assess their competencies all throughout the program so that they're ready for entry level practice."

Each simulation instruction space includes the type of equipment that appears in a real healthcare setting, including an overbed table, needle disposal system and scrub sinks. The examination rooms are designed so a human patient simulator can occupy them for scenarios and simulations.

As part of the virtual event, Dr. Mittelman along with Agnew and PA faculty members took part in a socially distanced ribbon cutting and toured the new space.

For more information about the University's facilities, including clinic and lab settings, please visit salus.edu/life/facilities.

About Salus University

Salus University, founded as the Pennsylvania College of Optometry in 1919, today is a diversified, globally recognized professional academic center of learning that offers a wide range of degree programs in the professions of Optometry, Audiology, Physician Assistant, Blindness and Low Vision Studies, Biomedicine, Occupational Therapy and Speech-Language Pathology. Salus operates four clinical facilities in Philadelphia and Montgomery counties that provide highly specialized vision, hearing and balance, and speech-language pathology services. The University has more than 1,200 students, and more than 14,000 alumni worldwide. For more information, please visit www.salus.edu.