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Vantage Builders completes nursing simulation and skills laboratory for Middlesex Community College

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Lowell, MA Vantage Builders, Inc., a commercial contractor specializing in pre-construction, construction management and design-build services, has announced the completion of a state-of-the-art simulation and skills laboratory for Middlesex Community College (MCC), for students in the college's nursing associate degree and licensed practical nursing (LPN) programs. The 7,345 s/f training space occupies two floors at 88 Middle St.

Vantage was hired for the project by Middlesex Community College and NV5, which served as the owner's project manager. The project team was comprised of William Sloan Associates, Architects and engineering services provided by VAV International and R.W. Sullivan Engineering.

"Providing hands-on training to our nursing students before they start their clinical rotations and work with patients builds their confidence and is critical to their success," said Karen Townsend, MCC's dean of health. "With our new simulation and skills lab, MCC is able to offer our students opportunities to practice real-world scenarios they will encounter throughout their careers. While our students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to excel in their field, the college continues to provide exciting and comprehensive experiences to attract a strong, diverse population of students interested in joining an in-demand and rewarding profession."

The new training facility is designed to replicate a working, active hospital setting, providing comprehensive, hands-on experience for nursing students. The simulation lab features two nursing command stations, twenty-six hospital beds, eight examination rooms, and cribs for pediatric training. The new nursing labs include simulation mannequins capable of registering pulse, blood

pressure readings and even the delivery of an infant. The classroom experience includes electronic links to change the parameters of each simulation.

The Derby Building was built in the 1890s and since then has served as a storefront, warehouse, restaurant and bar and, most recently, as the Middlesex Community College bookstore. The building was stripped back to its structure, exposing many details from the past. The Vantage team installed all new framing, electrical power wiring, data cabling, plumbing, and fire protection as well as a new revamped HVAC system. The training center features all new flooring, custom millwork, lighting and ACT ceiling, and built two new bathrooms on the second floor. The team worked under a tight deadline, to help get the buildout complete in time for fall classes.

“We are very proud of this project,” said Ed Silva, principal, Vantage Builders “It looks exactly like a hospital, from the equipment to the exam rooms to the design in the hallways. We are very pleased to have a part in training the next generation of professionals who will be helping people when they need medical attention.”

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