

## IWCC Nursing Skills Lab



Stacia Thompson showed pictures of the new skills lab at Iowa Western Community College on June 18. The new facility opened in February 2011.

The new skills lab can accommodate 70 first semester students each semester. It contains an actual ambulance that was wrecked for practice working in an ambulance. The walls were built around the ambulance after it was brought in. There is a simulated apartment for rescue practice. They are working with the theater department at IWCC to develop actual interview scenarios for people suffering various afflictions at home.

The emergency room is state-of-the-art. They have an actual Pyxis machine to ensure medicine dosages are correct.

There are two Hal and two Suzie mannequins that actually bleed and need tourniquets to stop the bleeding. They also have 8 high-fidelity simulated people. The mannequins can cost \$65,000-75,000 each. The new skills lab has full time IT staff to maintain the computers and set up scenarios for the mannequins to role play.

Most nursing students need to take two semesters of prerequisites and two semesters in practical nursing. Registered nurses need another three semesters.

In the lab everything is videotaped. Half the students in a group participate at one time with the mannequins and the other half watch from behind one-way glass or video camera. After a session they all get together to watch the videotape and discuss what worked and what didn't work. This is where a majority of the practical learning occurs.