

# Carver Named to JCCC's First Endowed Chair

In the early 1980s, Kathy Carver, RN, was working as a staff nurse in the Shawnee Mission Medical Center emergency room and assisted



Kathy Carver, nursing professor, is shown here in the patient simulation lab.

David Zamierowski, M.D., a plastic surgeon, on a car accident victim with multiple lacerations.

Twenty-five years later, their paths would cross again.

In 2004, Zamierowski, now retired, began volunteering to teach JCCC nursing students and assist Carver, now a nursing professor, in the patient simulation lab.

In honor of Carver's teaching and leadership in the human simulation project, Drs. David and Mary Zamierowski, Overland Park, have designated Carver to be the first person to hold the Zamierowski Family Endowed Professorship for Nursing and Medical Simulation, which is also the first endowed chair in JCCC's history. The \$750,000 gift will allow Carver to concentrate

full time on simulation teaching, research and evaluation and allow the nursing program to hire another full-time faculty, increasing the total number of full-time nursing faculty from 13 to 14.

"I am honored to be recognized with this new title and humbled to have the Zamierowski family name associated with my teaching and nursing practice," Carver said. "I am really excited that JCCC students will be afforded more simulation experience and for the program to have another faculty member."

JCCC received its first simulator in November 2001. Currently the college has three sophisticated patient simulators – two adults and one pediatric – that can be programmed with hundreds of patient scenarios and respond physiologically to treatment.

With the new patient simulation lab being planned for the first floor of the Classroom Laboratory Building, there will be a total of four to eight patient simulators, including simulators representing medical specialties such as labor and delivery. The new simulation lab will include four to eight multifunctional bed bays that can be configured as rooms in the ICU, emergency room, post-operative unit or medical-surgery unit. A larger area will be set up as an operating room or labor/delivery room. The expanded simulation lab will enable students to triage and care for multiple "patients" at one time and work in teams, replicating real-world nursing practice.

"The simulators make our students good practitioners by building their skills and confidence," Carver said. "Students feel more prepared to deal with critical kinds of care and less frequently seen medical conditions after practice in the lab."

Carver says that with more simulators and more space, JCCC can serve a larger number of JCCC students in RN, LPN, EMT, respiratory care and RN refresher courses and students from other schools.

Carver earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from Washburn University and a master's degree in nursing from the University of Kansas. She started teaching at JCCC in 1983 and has taught all nursing courses. In 2001, she was trained to program and maintain the complex computerized human simulators by its manufacturer, Medical Education Technologies Inc. Since then, she has been a presenter at many state and national conferences on the use of simulation and the development of critical thinking in nurse education.

"It is our family's hope that by enhancing the teaching of the faculty and the learning of the students, this program of medical simulations will further improve the quality of our graduates and benefit the entire community," said David Zamierowski.