

# EMS Training Center dedicates new site

**The emergency medical** science program will dedicate its new 4,918-square-foot training center from 2-4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18, in 101 Science building. It is an impressive center that demonstrates the serious education required for a serious profession.

JCCC started its EMS program in 1978, with then director Denny Kurogi. In 1983, the college started its paramedic training. JCCC has the longest continuous running EMS program in Kansas and the first to be accredited. In 1987, it was one of the first 75 EMS programs in the country to be accredited by the Council for Accreditation of EMS Professions, and no JCCC student has ever failed to pass the National Registry exam.

After 31 years, EMS is moving out of its two small rooms, 124 and 126 SCI, to the new training center with classrooms touting the latest digital media; staff offices; storage, maintenance and cleaning space for mannequins; lockers and a simulation lab so real it will make your adrenaline rush.

“Paramedic training is all about application. It is all about doing your job with adrenaline flowing in your veins and confidence,” said Ray Wright, director, EMS. “We want the simulation to be so intense and so realistic that by the time the student gets to a real emergency, the work is routine.”

EMS students have been training with human simulators in the Healthcare Simulation Center, along with nursing and respiratory care students. But with their own simulation lab, EMS students can drill, drill, drill so when the time comes they can bring order out of chaos and assist people in the worst emergency of their life – extraction from a car wreck, heart attack at home or ambulance ride to the hospital for any reason.

One room of the simulation lab is designed to duplicate a studio

apartment where students will run simulated 911 calls. Adjoining the apartment is an observation room and one-way mirror so instructors can evaluate students’ proficiency. The lab also has a fully functional ambulance patient-compartment allowing students to “transport” the patient in a realistic environment. The lab ambulance compartment and the current mobile ambulance have capabilities for videotaping students’ performance and for broadcasting conversations to instructors while the ambulance is in route to a hospital. On the east entrance, a set of “stairs to nowhere” have been built from the interior simulation areas so students can master transporting patients with proper techniques. Further simulation lab plans include the



Pat Brewwood, administrative assistant, toured the classroom ambulance in the EMS Training Center.



Ray Wright, director, EMS, shows off the new EMS Training Center.

passenger compartment of a car and tetherless human patient simulator.

Like the human patient simulators in the Healthcare Simulation Center, this EMS simulator will bleed, sweat, breathe, have seizures, high blood pressure and a multitude of dire symptoms, and react to therapy. But this one will be operated by Bluetooth hooked to a wireless PC tablet, making it mobile so it can be transferred from the apartment or car to the ambulance to the hospital. After a graduated learning process, third-semester students are graded on competencies in a maximum volatile situation: reacting to the radio dispatch call; driving to the emergency scene in the ambulance; assessing, organizing and using resources in a matter of seconds – known as “scene logistic;” starting basic life support, IVs, oxygen

and medications; giving notification of arrival to a hospital and transporting the patient.

“We’ve always used simulations in the emergency medical sciences, but this will allow us to ramp them up to the next level,” Wright said.

The classroom space with computers can be configured into various sizes ranging from one to three rooms. The classrooms are all equipped with Wi-Fi, the latest AV and “smart podiums” just like those in the Regnier Center.

According to Wright, a site visitor for the Council for Accreditation of EMS Professions, the JCCC’s EMS Training Center is unique with its first-class simulation lab.

The new center was designed for functionality by staff who all still work in the field. While excited about the

new site, Wright says it is hard to leave the old classrooms where approximately 500 paramedics and close to 3,500 EMTs and first responders trained.

JCCC offers an EMS associate’s degree (aka paramedic and, in Kansas, mobile intensive care technician) with 26 students selected for admission each year, an EMT certificate and first responder course, along with various other emergency medical science classes, certifications and recertifications.

The new space allows for an increase in EMT students from 34 to 38 students this fall, and an increase in first-responder students from 22 to 24.

For more information about JCCC’s EMS programs, call 913-469-8500, ext. 3419. 