Donation to NIACC Supports Future Healthcare Professionals

Partnerships are everything. At NIACC, the partnership between the College and Mercy Medical Center – North Iowa is an excellent example of how two organizations work together for the betterment of students and for the communities we each serve.

Each year, NIACC Health Division Chair Donna Orton contacts Sue Balek, Purchasing Supervisor at Mercy’s East Campus to inquire about the possibility of securing health equipment that is in good condition but is no longer needed at any of the area Mercy hospitals. As it turns out this year, a new building and renovation project at Hancock County Memorial Hospital in Britt provided an opportunity for equipment to be donated to the NIACC Nursing Lab for student learning.

NIACC Practical Nursing Instructor, Brandi Hiscocks, BSN, RN, lives in the area and stopped in to check out the equipment.

“‘It’s so important for the students to learn in a realistic environment,’” said Hiscocks. “‘Having a basic understanding of how a patient room is set-up and how to operate a motorized patient bed makes that first encounter with a new patient a little less intimidating and much safer for both the patient and the caregiver.’”

Curt Gast, Facilities Director at the hospital, felt the donation to NIACC would be a great idea. “We didn’t want to pay to store old equipment. We would rather help NIACC upgrade the medical equipment they used in the classroom. So it worked out great.”

The Nursing Lab received four electronic patient beds with matching nightstands and over-the-bed tables.

Over the years, Mercy Medical Center – North Iowa has donated multiple beds, bedside stands, over-bed tables and other pieces of equipment, Orton said. “These partnerships are essential to help the College continue to provide the best possible education for our students. We know that many of our nursing students graduate and stay in North Iowa, so it’s a perfect partnership for the College, area hospitals and the communities that will benefit from having highly educated and qualified nurses in their communities.”

Nursing students, Michelle Ellison and Katie Hawbaker, appreciate learning on the newer equipment so they can practice in the lab before they have a patient encounter in the clinical environment.