



OZARKS TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

November 20, 2018

Board of Directors
Skaggs Foundation
101 Skaggs Road, Suite 404
Branson, MO 65616

Dear Skaggs Foundation Board of Directors:

To support improved health and wellness in Taney and Stone counties, Ozarks Technical Community College (OTC) knew growth of the college's Table Rock Campus nursing programs, and expanded training opportunities for local healthcare and emergency responders through simulation experiences was critical.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services classifies both Stone and Taney counties as medically underserved, and a health professional shortage area. OTC's recent expansion of its nursing program to the Table Rock Campus is in direct response to addressing these issues, and increasing local capacity for healthcare education and training opportunities. Although program expansion created additional education and training capacity, limited program resources impacted the potential scope of the project. The rural location of the OTC Table Rock campus is prohibitive to the delivery of specialty nursing training and courses, and valuable real-life simulation scenarios and experiences. Prior to this project, nursing program students at the Table Rock Campus and community healthcare organizations traveled to Springfield, Missouri, to receive training in specialty nursing subjects and to access valuable real-life patient care simulation experiences. This deficiency in available, advanced healthcare training was an area of great need for the Hollister community.

To address this need and provide necessary training equipment, the Skaggs Foundation awarded OTC a grant in support of improved, local health and wellness. Funds provided high-fidelity healthcare simulation experiences to OTC nursing students and local community healthcare providers, such as emergency responders and rural fire departments, not available locally prior to funding. Grant funds purchased real-life nursing simulation manikins; models of the human body used to educate medical professionals, and associated training equipment at OTC Table Rock. The purchased simulation manikins and related equipment have allowed OTC nursing students and community healthcare partners to obtain real-life, hands-on training in a variety of healthcare scenarios. These high-tech manikins are able to simulate human qualities that mirror working with patients in a clinical setting, an advanced healthcare training opportunity that was not previously available in the local area.



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Through the Skaggs Foundation grant, OTC has trained 100% of the college's nursing students as well as over 1,300 local community partners. The purchased healthcare simulation manikins and related equipment have been used to provide CPR training for local high school students, emergency response scenarios to rural fire departments, and nursing training for local hospitals. OTC plans to continue and expand this valuable healthcare training throughout local communities, something that wouldn't be possible without the support of the Skaggs Foundation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hal L. Higdon".

Hal L. Higdon, Ph.D.
Chancellor