

West Valley View

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EMCC opens new campus building *'Green' Mariposa Hall features high-tech nursing labs*

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MARIPOSA HALL comprises 25,000 square feet with nine classrooms, two nursing labs, one multi-purpose lab and faculty office space.

The architectural firm Orcutt Winslow has been working on the college building for two years, with a primary focus of making it a "green" educational facility.

The building was constructed with recycled materials, has water-conserving facilities in the restrooms, features rainwater harvesting and low-energy lighting.

The goal was to achieve at least a Silver LEED certification for the building, but it is likely the facility will qualify for Gold status, officials said.

There's a good chance a woman will give birth at Estrella Mountain Community College this week; and it is likely a man on the campus will suffer from respiratory distress.

While these events will be a real learning experience, no real people will be in any danger. The Avondale college has opened Mariposa Hall with state-of-the-art nursing simulation labs.

Simulation mannequins have pulses, respiration sounds, cough, cry and one even gives birth. One of the lab's models is fully computerized and can interact in real time with its caregivers. An instructor sits in a control room and provides his voice and reactions for nursing students to practice their bedside skills.

The computerized mannequin goes through a prewritten session, so when students treat him, he will respond positively if they take the right measures and his condition will deteriorate if they are not performing appropriately. The lab is videotaped and students and instructors will analyze the scenarios from a debriefing room to decide if students' work meets best practice standards.

"I think it's fabulous," said Karin Toci, chief nursing officer at Banner Estrella Medical Center in west Phoenix. "There was nothing like this before."

Toci toured the new Mariposa Hall during its grand opening celebration Wednesday.

The facility comprises 25,000 square feet with nine classrooms, two nursing labs, one multi-purpose lab and faculty office space.

"We have always wanted to make sure our students have state-of-the-art technology," EMCC President Ernie Lara said.

Going green

"Mariposa Hall has opened just in time to meet the increase in need at Estrella Mountain," said Rufus Glasper, chancellor of the Maricopa Community College District. "There is a need and we are trying to meet that need."

Enrollment at the college is up 17 percent from last year. Mariposa Hall is already in full use this semester.

Along with the new building came 400 additional parking spaces, and more parking spaces are planned as peak times at the campus fill the lots.

The name Mariposa means butterfly in Spanish. It was chosen as a metamorphic symbol of growth.

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