



**Within Our Sights: Toward National Leadership in Higher Education | October 18, 2013  
Enabling Disruptive Technologies to Further Vision Project Goals**

**Springfield Technical Community College**

**Presenter Contact Information**

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**Campus Project**

**The Use of In-world Technology to Teach Essential Health Care Skills**

The goal of this project is to use In-world (on line) technology to provide additional practice for healthcare students with the expectation of increased compliance in clinical settings. A set of essential skills have been identified that span the majority of healthcare providers. Unlike in the "real world" students will be able to practice to a high level of competence through multiple opportunities to perform to the level of automaticity, also known as habit building. Faculty have identified the set of essential skills as "under performed" and needing a new approach to learning.

**Vision Project Outcome Areas**

- ✓ **Student Learning**
- ✓ **Workforce Alignment**
- ✓ **Closing Achievement Gaps**
- ✓ **Research**

**Research and Data**

**Project Duration:** *January 2013 - Ongoing.*

- It is known that compliance is low to a common patient safety protocol.
- Skills such as communication and hand washing are components to patient safety protocols. "Communication Skills Learning within Immersive Virtual Environments," Nigel Wynne, Birmingham University found that nurses who practiced using In-World technology significantly outperformed the control group in their communication skills.
- Virtual (In-World) clinical settings, which are immersive, engaging, and effective, provide practice opportunities in authentic settings without risk to patients.
- Assessment "In-World" is summative, providing feedback to the student for each session.
- 50 Nursing students will use the "In-World" technology. Each student go through an orientation to the use of the new technology. They will then go "In-World" to practice the Patient Safety Protocol. When the Protocol is performed correctly each time, a distractor will be introduced to test the "strength" of compliance.
- All Nursing students will be followed in campus labs, SIMS Medical Center - Teaching Hospital @ STCC and into the clinical setting. Should compliance be shown to improve, the control group will also participate post data collection.