

A MIND-SHIFT IN EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

TCC's *New* Portsmouth Campus blends best design with model instructional delivery. It's not about the walls, the doors – the “place” – so much as the by-design integration of pioneering practice and collaborative learning.

TCC's *New* Portsmouth Campus is a ground-up example of enabling learning; moving from a hierarchical to a flattened structure, to teams and collaboration versus silos.

Along with in-depth research of new college facilities and national best practices, TCC's team infused the campus design – its classrooms, labs, library, study areas and student services offices – with a new model of instructional delivery.

Four elements fueled the design process and resulting model campus for the 21st century:

Collaboration – learning in teams of diverse size and make-up

Simulation – real-life learning through technology, enriching experiences

Explosion of technology capabilities – allowing endless ways to assist learning, ways not dreamed of 10 years ago

Colors – aiding learning through visuals, from beaming Internet material into classes and labs in living color to wireless cameras capturing demos in anatomy and nursing clinical practice

Collaboration support can be found on every floor of the academic buildings, with tables and chairs at ends of halls inviting team meetings and study. In the classrooms, furniture and room environments encourage group learning. For example, the English faculty's need for small-group set-ups resulted in customized tables with built-in computers that pop up when needed.

Simulation through technology:

- Computer-Aided Drawing and Design (CADD) classes have CNC (Computer Numerical Control) and 3-D modeling machines.
- Every classroom has a master presentation station and large screen. Some rooms can display classroom content on multiple projection surfaces at once.
- All classrooms have the ability to write with “digital ink” with a computer touch monitor, viewable to all students in the classroom via a projector or LCD monitor. The information can be saved and posted to the web for student review.
- Many classrooms have microphone and/or camera systems, including speech classes and welding labs.
- In each of four labs, Nursing students will use computers linked to seven clinical beds to record medical readings, and practice on four human-patient simulators in life-like scenarios.
- Anatomy and physiology labs have ceiling cameras that will beam images from cadaver work for all in the class to see.
- “The Firm” business program space is designed like real-life offices with cubicles and desktops linked to the instructor's station.

Supporting collaboration and simulation, the library offers a “Learning Commons” with 100 computers and a digital media lab to create multimedia presentations. A high-tech classroom helps faculty offer course-related library instruction and research skills, featuring a smart station, electronic whiteboard, 24 computers mounted on smart desks – providing a flexible learning environment.

