



Industry
Higher Education

Daily Use

- Two-way distance learning from four classrooms simultaneously
- Live streaming to online students from patient simulator labs
- Complements school's Blackboard course management system

Solution

- Automated class capture, archive with Polycom® RealPresence™ Capture Station software
- Live, rich media Webcasting with Polycom® RealPresence™ Capture Station
- Searchable, secure, online class archives via Polycom® RealPresence™ Media Manager

Results and Benefits

- Extend nursing education to more students without 'brick and mortar' investments
- Enable remote students to interact with professors and students online
- Enable students across Michigan to review peer performance in patient simulation labs

Polycom Online Webcasting Solution Helps Address Michigan Nursing Shortage by Adding Student Capacity at Wayne State University College of Nursing

Overview

According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the shortage of registered nurses in the U.S. could reach 500,000 by 2025. As baby boomers age, the demand for nurses keeps growing, but American universities are hard-pressed to keep up. The Wayne State University College of Nursing in Detroit has responded by adding Webcasting and distance learning systems, based on solutions from Polycom, to teach more students online with the faculty they have. Nicole Puente, Director of Information Technology at the nursing school, says the effort, to which she and her staff provide technical services, is spread over several major initiatives.

Webcasting, Distance Learning, and Patient Care Simulations

The project began when the College of Nursing bought its first Polycom® RealPresence™ Capture Station solution and brought in Puente from the business school to help start up a Web and podcasting program. Within a year, the College had added video conferencing codecs and three more Capture Station solutions to its inventory. They can now offer two-way distance learning and Webcasting from up to four classrooms simultaneously. Hospitals throughout Michigan can enroll nursing staff in Wayne State's nursing program, with lecture classes delivered through distance learning and clinical work at the nurses' local site. The Capture Station solution also enables live, online streaming of nursing students using robotic patient simulators in teaching areas designed to look like hospital rooms. Up to three nursing students are able to interact with the "patients" at one time, with the instructor and other students watching live or on demand via the Polycom Webcasts. The baby, child, and adult "patients" enable students to practice neonatal, pediatric, acute care, midwifery and other specialties without risk to a human patient. The Capture Station solution records what the students are doing so that instructors and other students can help them improve their skills.

The Technology Behind the Initiatives Though other schools and colleges at Wayne State have purchased other brands of Webcasting gear, the College of Nursing standardized on Polycom systems. "The main reason for going with Polycom was that it was cross platform," says Puente. "Then, too, with Polycom I'm not dependent on any special software, even Polycom server software, to make the Capture Station solution or the streams work."

Students can view any of the nursing lectures using Internet Explorer or Firefox and a standard media player, whether they're using a PC or a Mac.

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Nicole Puente, Director of Information Technology, Wayne State University College of Nursing

The Polycom solution is very flexible and scalable, Puente says. “When we started the program we were not sure how well this was going to take off or how much it was going to be used. It was easy for us to get started with a single Capture Station unit and set up a server, and it wasn’t a huge investment.” The Capture Station solutions are integrated with existing technology located in each of the College of Nursing’s distance learning rooms, including a Polycom HDX® video conferencing system and high-definition cameras, a Smart Sympodium, a document camera, and Crestron or AMX room control systems. Puente can edit captured classes before they are sent to the streaming server using Polycom® RealPresence™ Media Editor software. Instructors often show video in class, so Puente will use the package to switch the Webcast’s video window to the video that was played. Recently, the College of Nursing added the Polycom® RealPresence™ Media Manager solution, a searchable video content management portal that catalogs and enables viewers to access captured lectures. Though Wayne State has standardized on Blackboard as its course management system, the Media Manager solution greatly expands its ability to find and search through the archives to locate information within the multimedia materials.

While Polycom presentations can be accessible from Blackboard course pages, students would need to know where to look for them, and what’s inside, for them to be usable. Media Manager software, on the other hand, lets them search by a specific topic—such as “improved patient outcomes”—within the entire archive of rich media assets to find all the places where the term appears in slides, slide notes, presentation chapters, or closed captioning files (if included).

Puente says the College of Nursing has been capturing 16 to 20 hours of lectures per week with the Polycom solutions over a two-year period. That’s a lot of material, and the Media Manager portal allows users to search all these lectures by title, date, instructor, indexed keywords, and lecture content in the form of slides, slide notes, and closed captioning titles (if included). With the Media Manager solution, the College of Nursing has been able to begin a fourth initiative – the packaging of captured content so faculty members don’t have to repeat lectures every time a class is offered. It’s another step toward overcoming the national nursing shortage without overtaxing university budgets.

Learn More

To find out how Polycom solutions can help your organization, visit us at www.polycom.com or speak with a Polycom Account Representative.

About Polycom

Polycom is the global leader in standards-based unified communications (UC) solutions for telepresence, video, and voice powered by the Polycom® RealPresence™ Platform. The RealPresence Platform interoperates with the broadest range of business, mobile, and social applications and devices. More than 400,000 organizations trust Polycom solutions to collaborate and meet face-to-face from any location for more productive and effective engagement with colleagues, partners, customers, and prospects. Polycom, together with its broad partner ecosystem, provides customers with the best TCO, scalability, and security—on-premises, hosted, or cloud delivered.

For more information, visit www.polycom.com, call 1-800-POLYCOM, or contact your Polycom sales representative.

Product Listing

Voice Content Management

- Polycom® RealPresence™ Capture Station
- Polycom® RealPresence™ Media Manager
- Polycom® RealPresence™ Media Editor

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