



Message from the CSE Senior Director:

Welcome to the Center for Simulation Education (CSE). As we begin a new academic year, I'm proud to reflect on the exciting advancements across our simulation programs and facilities, and to share how our work continues to shape the future of healthcare education at Loyola.

At the CSE, our mission is to provide innovative, simulation-based education and performance assessments that span the entire continuum of professional development—from undergraduate learners to seasoned clinicians. Through immersive, team-based scenarios and hands-on training, we help cultivate the critical thinking, communication, and technical skills necessary for high-quality, compassionate patient care. Grounded in the Jesuit values of excellence, service, and cura personalis (care for the whole person), our programs emphasize safety, equity, and continuous improvement in healthcare delivery.

Recent Highlights and Enhancements

Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing

This past year, undergraduate students benefited from major renovations to the Lakeshore Campus simulation lab. We expanded capacity with an additional simulation bay, new control and debriefing rooms, and upgraded audio-visual technology—enhancing the learning experience for students, faculty and staff. As enrollment continues to rise, we're excited to announce the development of a new Nursing and Science building breaking ground this fall. This facility will accommodate increased simulation-based training and foster a modern, interdisciplinary learning environment.

School of Social Work

We're proud to support the launch of the School of Social Work's new behavioral health simulation lab at the Water Tower Campus. Located in the Maguire Building, the new space features 12 interview rooms, a Family Room, two conference/debriefing rooms, and a control room. With in-person standardized participants now integrated into the curriculum, this state-of-the-art facility enables a more immersive, hands-on approach to behavioral health education, building on five years of successful remote simulation work.

Stritch School of Medicine

The Stritch School of Medicine recently upgraded its cardiopulmonary simulator to the Harvey Premier, enhancing the realism and depth of cardiovascular and pulmonary training. While computer-based audio files provide a foundational understanding of

pathological heart and lung sounds, clinical competence is best developed through direct, hands-on auscultation. Learners refine their diagnostic skills by placing a stethoscope on specific anatomical landmarks and correlating physical locations with distinct sounds. Observing simulated breathing patterns while auscultating reinforces clinical application and boosts diagnostic confidence. Harvey's lifelike cardiopulmonary findings make it a valuable educational tool for learners at all levels—from beginners to advanced trainees.

In addition, the school recently added to its inventory of ultrasound machines to further support its Vertical Integrated Ultrasound Curriculum (VIC). This hands-on technology allows students to visualize real-time anatomy and physiology, fostering diagnostic reasoning and clinical thinking from the earliest stages of medical education. Integrating ultrasound into all four years of training bridges the gap between basic sciences and clinical application, improving preparedness and enhancing confidence as students transition into patient care.

Looking ahead, we're excited to implement new, interdisciplinary simulation experiences for a broad range of learners—including university students, residents, fellows, clinical staff, and attending physicians from our valued partner, Loyola University Medical Center.

Our vision is to lead in multidisciplinary training by delivering impactful, research-driven simulation experiences that not only enhance individual performance, but also improve team dynamics and, ultimately, patient outcomes. We remain committed to offering educators effective tools to meet diverse learner needs and to advancing educational research that drives meaningful change.

At the heart of everything we do are our core values: **people, context, purpose, trust, experience, meaning, and impact**. These principles guide us as we strive to deliver high-quality education that prepares healthcare professionals to meet the challenges of a complex and evolving clinical environment.

Thank you for your continued support and trust in the Center for Simulation Education. We look forward to collaborating with you in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Donna Quinones
CSE Senior Director