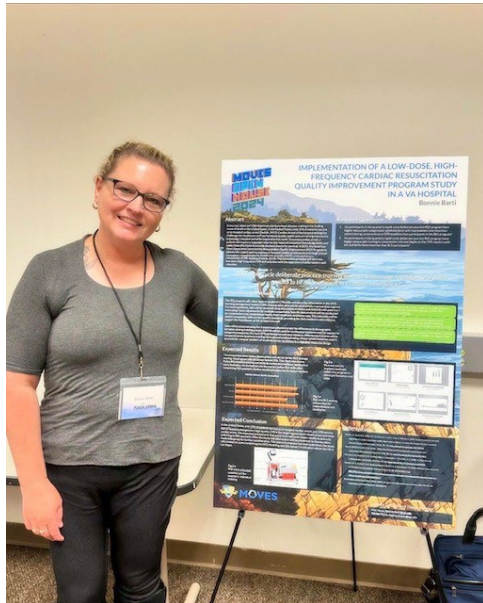




From My Perspective: Pursuing Certification in Healthcare Modeling and Simulation

By Bonnie Barti, MAED, CHSOS, CHMS, Simulation Technician, Southern Nevada VA Medical Center



Bonnie Barti presents her research project at the Naval Postgraduate School's MOVES open house in Monterey, California.

As a VA simulation staff member – which includes roles such as educator, technician, operator, and director – we have an amazing opportunity for further education at our fingertips. I am always seeking new educational opportunities and welcome the chance for growth. There are obvious avenues like conferences, [Healthy Simulation](#), vendor training, Peter M. Winter Institute for Simulation Education and Research ([WISER](#)), SimLEARN, and formal university training programs.

A few years ago, a coworker told me about Naval Postgraduate School and their [Healthcare Modeling and Simulation Program](#). Although it is run by the military, this program is also open to VA simulation staff for free. The spaces are limited. It took me three years to be accepted, but this has been the most valuable education I've received during my time in simulation.

The program is a distance learning one and begins in July and ends in June next year. It includes four courses, each approximately ten weeks long. The certificate earned is equivalent to the CHSE certification from the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH) but does not require upkeep to stay validated.

The first course, **Simulation and Training**, prepares students to manage the development, implementation, evaluation, and operation of simulator training systems for health care. It covers learning theories, instructional design, nontechnical skills, and patient safety.

The second course, **Research Methods and Statistics for Healthcare Simulation**, provides an understanding of research methods and procedures used to assess performance in simulated environments. The goal is to gain a general understanding of the design, statistical, and ethical issues in conducting research.

The third course is **Technology and Simulation in Healthcare Education**. This course covers the types of simulation available, how to choose the right simulator, how to run a simulation center, and how to deliver simulation-based education. The objective is to improve the understanding of how simulation can be used effectively in training systems.

The last course in the series is **Management of Modeling and Simulation Development**. This course prepares students for managing a large-scale medical/health care modeling and simulation facility and program. The capstone course culminates in a full research project proposal, a technology talk using

PowerPoint, and an optional poster presentation at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California at the Modeling Virtual Environments and Simulation (MOVES) open house in June.

This program is a great addition to [the two courses available from SimLEARN](#) (ICS and SFIC), which provide the base for further learning.

Watch my tech talk on the current state of AI in VA regarding simulation models called '[Simulation-Based Medical Communication Training Using Generative AI Models](#)' on YouTube.

To learn more about the Healthcare Modeling and Simulation Certificate program, visit the [Healthcare Modeling and Simulation Programs - MOVES Institute - Naval Postgraduate School](#). To apply, go to the [Office of Admissions - Naval Postgraduate School](#).