Those regional aging statistics motivated Deb Josephson, director of nurses at Birch Haven Assisted Living Facility in Ashland, Wis., to enroll in the program. Continuing education has played a large role in Josephson’s 42-year medical career. She says this experience is a first for her: “The simulation suit impacts a person more than any book or viewing could ever possibly do. I found myself – in a moment – understanding more than in all the years I spent accessing patients. ”

Josephson will integrate her classroom experiences into her staff training this spring. “This is a great learning tool for people working in this industry. They’ll have a better understanding of how challenging life can be for the older person,” said Josephson.

WITC received this grant in partnership with a consortium of 15 other Wisconsin Technical Colleges. The ACT for Healthcare Grant total award is $20 million. WITC’s portion is $593,800 and roughly 25 percent of the award was used to acquire the simulation equipment.

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