The Role of Virtual Simulation as a Modality of Clinical Experience in AHEC Scholars Program

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Problem Statement

The **Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Scholar Program** clinical rotations diminished during the pandemic due to clinical pressures in state-wide healthcare systems.

The **Center for Experiential and Applied Learning (CEAL)** and other state-wide simulation centers provided virtual simulation experiences as an alternative.
Study Design

In 2022, CEAL is hosting four (4) virtual simulation experiences focused on anesthesiology and labor and delivery.

Electronic surveys are administered to participating Scholars and descriptive statistics, t-tests, and qualitative assessment of themes are completed.
Evaluation Plan & Conclusion

Preliminary 5-point Likert results reveal:
- agreement with the content being pertinent to educational needs (4.6)
- increased knowledge/skills due to the virtual simulation event (4.6)

CEAL will:
- evaluate our own program across the four (4) simulation experiences
- partner with participating simulation centers to compile simulation data across all programs,
- determine if/how simulation will remain a part of the future Scholars program.
Questions for Discussion

• What virtual simulation topics do you think relevant to AHEC Scholars who are in college and considering a career in healthcare?

• What the biggest barriers to clinical rotations in our healthcare system?