

## Nursing statistics

- There are 4,054 Registered Nurses, 1,013 Registered Practical Nurses and 31 Nurse Practitioners who live in Essex County.

- In 2007, 4451 or 87 per cent of College of Ontario Nurses of Ontario members (RNs, RPNs) who live in Essex County were employed in nursing. 78 per cent are employed in Canada; 22 per cent in the U.S.

- 64 per cent of all Essex County College of Ontario Nurses of Ontario members are employed full-time.

- 36 per cent of College of Ontario Nurses of Ontario who live in Essex County are age 50 or older.

## Foreign trained nurses

Moving to a new country can be stressful. But arriving only to discover your nursing credentials aren't accepted can make the transition even more difficult.

The Multicultural Council of Windsor-Essex introduced a program in January 2007 that helps internationally trained immigrants to prepare to enter the work field by partnering with a local professional. Three nurses are currently enrolled in the program; another has almost completed it.

Shanon Ciampa, manager of employment and training services, coordinated the initiative.

"We developed the program because we found that many of the mentees (immigrants) didn't have Canadian work experience and lacked familiarity with their field in Canada. Some didn't understand the licence and accreditation process, lacked sufficient knowledge of profession-specific language/terminology, or didn't understand the cultural practices in Canada in the workplace."



Shanon Ciampa, manager of employment and training services of Multicultural Council, doing a job search workshop for Internationally trained immigrants in the Health Care Field.

Photo: Ed Goodfellow - Special to The Star

stand the cultural practices in Canada in the workplace."

Through the four-month program, a mentor leads the mentee through the steps necessary to work in Canada.

"This isn't an occupation specific program - it's for anyone trained outside. And they do not necessarily have university or college train-

ing; they could be in a trade," says Ciampa.

For nurses, Ciampa has partnered them with nurses who work in the area. The mentor helps them learn how to accredit themselves. The steps vary according to how the Nursing Association of Ontario evaluates the individual's nursing credentials. There is no cost associ-

ated with the mentoring program itself, but mentees may need to pay for courses necessary for their accreditation.

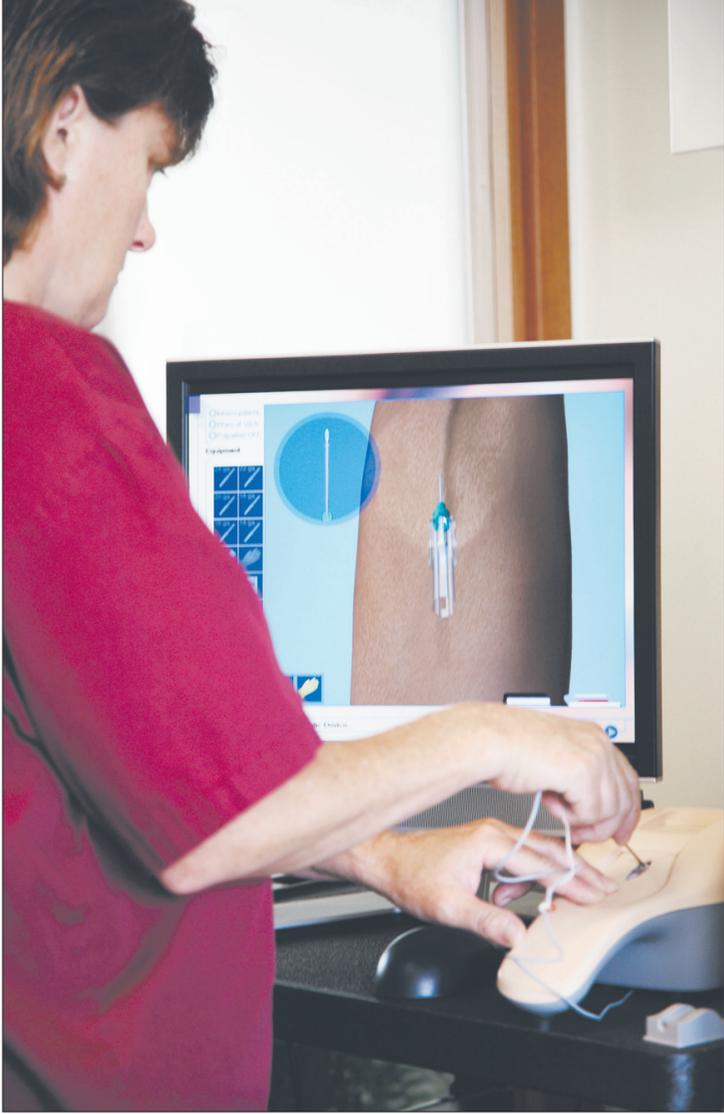
"They also learn how the field is different from their home country," says Ciampa.

Although the mentee is only obligated to meet for one hour a week with their mentor, several have elected to spend time volunteering at the mentor's organization to gain hands-on experience.

There is currently a waiting list while Ciampa seeks more mentors. "They want to give more time but nurses don't have much time to give," she says.

Feedback from mentees has been very positive: "They enjoy it because they are learning something new each step of the way."

"It was a beneficial opportunity for me to be enrolled in Mentoring works! program at MCC" says Luminita Danescu. "Miss Ciampa helped me find a wonderful mentor, Lynda Monik. I have been meeting with Lynda on a weekly basis since November 2007 and she has supported me all this time, giving me important pieces of information in my efforts to become a RPN in Ontario. She has also, accepted me as a volunteer at Sandwich Community Health Centre and I have been a member of their wonderful team for more than five months now."



A nurse trains in the University of Windsor nursing program's simulation laboratory.

Photo - Courtesy University of Windsor



To all of our Caring, Compassionate & Committed Nurses  
We would like to say, during National Nursing Week May 12-18 a Great big... Thank You!

We appreciate your professionalism, quality care, and support of our community clients. We are proud that we have such dedicated healthcare specialists in our organization.



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## Simulation lab at University of Windsor

Sophisticated new computer-run mannequins that can exhibit signs of illness and respond to treatment are at the centre of the University of Windsor nursing program's simulation laboratory that will give students training in realistic scenarios before they ever enter a hospital.

The mannequins are physiologically comparable to humans—students can measure their pulses and blood pressure, listen to their heartbeats and breathing, can administer medicines by injection or through intravenous drip. They weigh about 70 kg (150 lbs), so students can practice turning patients in their beds.

The simulators have been pre-programmed with more than 100 scenarios, from a dry cough to full cardiac arrest to give students an opportunity to experience a full range of real-life situations and gain confidence in their abilities.

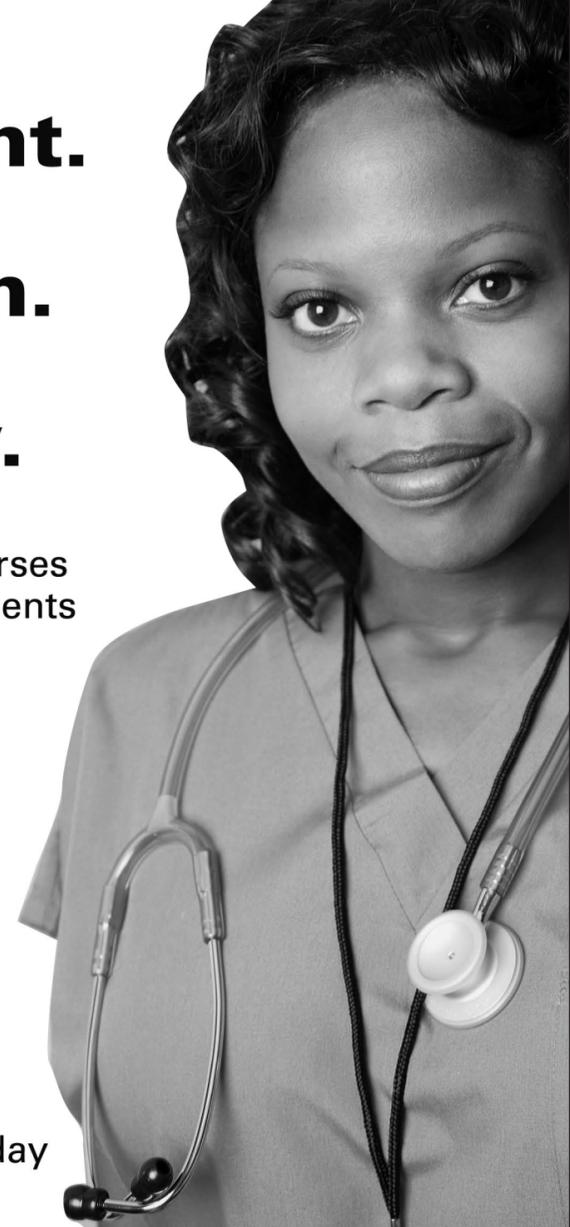
The lab is equipped like a hospital ward. It has special cameras that allow instructors to observe their students without being present. A \$600,000 grant from the provincial ministry of health and long-term care supported the initiative.

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Our nurses are the front line, the face our patients see, the hands they hold and the one they call when they need help. It's not always easy, but they make it look that way.

To our nurses... thank you for the lives you save and the healing you do every day of the year.



"We recognize and honour the contributions that Nurses make to our community."



**Sandra Papatello**  
MPP Windsor West  
1368 Ouellette Ave.  
Windsor, ON, N8X 1J9  
519-977-7191  
spapatello.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org



**Dwight Duncan**  
MPP Windsor-Tecumseh  
4808 Tecumseh Rd. East  
Windsor, ON, N8T 1B8  
519-251-5199  
dduncan.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

# To our DMC nurses: Thank You and Happy Nurses Week.



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