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THE CIVIL EMPLOYEES' WEEKLY

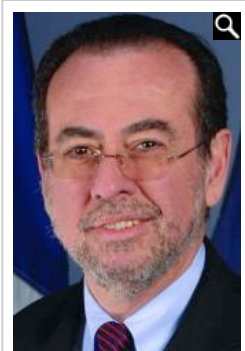
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Break Ground for Medical Training Center At HHC

Simulates ER, OR Conditions
By DAVID SIMS



ALAN D. AVILES: A big boost for training.

Construction began on a state-of-the-art medical training technology center, the first of its kind in the U.S., in The Bronx Nov. 30. Mayor Bloomberg said the new center, due to open next fall, was the latest step in a "remarkable turnaround in New York City's public hospitals in recent years."

The Health and Hospitals Corporation Institute for Medical Simulation and Advanced Learning is being built on the campus of Jacobi Medical Center in Morris Park at a cost of \$10 million. It will occupy 10,000 square feet and train more than 14,000 medical, nursing and hospital staff in its first three years, according to projections.

'Operate' on Special Mannequins

The facility is being designed to simulate emergency rooms, operating rooms and other patient-care settings. Among its features will be computer operated mannequins that can simulate heartbeats, breathing and even sweat, to simulate a wide number of medical conditions for students. Trained actors, other simulation equipment and digital audio-visual systems will also be part of the center's training courses.

While other private medical learning centers, like Harvard University, the Mayor Clinic and North Shore Long Island Jewish Health System, exist, HHC will be the first public hospital system in the nation to have such a high-tech center.

"This center represents the latest in a number of major advancements in patient safety, technology and innovation we've brought to our public health-care system," the Mayor said at a press conference announcing the start of construction. "Today we're taking a major step toward making patient care even better and safer."

HHC President Alan D. Aviles said that "just as pilots master complexity through cockpit simulators, HHC's new medical simulation center will better train our staff to function as high-performing clinical team members in a wide variety of highly realistic, demanding medical scenarios."

'A National Model'

Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Linda I. Gibbs called the center "another concrete demonstration of excellence and innovation in our public hospital system and of the Health and Hospital Corporation's commitment to being at the forefront of patient safety," adding that HHC was "a national model in the post-health reform environment."

When opened, the center will be run by 14 medical and training professionals. A mobile skills-training program that travels to each of the city's 11 public hospitals will be provided.

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