

## **The Mary Ann Caswell Nursing Simulation Hospital at SUNY Canton**

### **Brief Biography of Honoree & Justification:**

Mary Ann Caswell passed away on November 11, 2018, after a long career in the health field and at SUNY Canton, during which she touched the lives of hundreds of students and improved the lives of thousands of individuals and families throughout the North Country. Mary Ann Caswell was a colleague, mentor and dear friend to many. She touched lives in various ways, increasing the knowledge, confidence, kindness, caring, dedication, persistence, motivation, and teamwork skills of all who knew her.

During her 45-year career, Mrs. Caswell worked at Claxton Hepburn Medical Center, primarily in the Intensive Care Unit, and later as a professor at SUNY Canton until she retired. At SUNY Canton, Mrs. Caswell was the clinical instructor students desired for their hospital clinical rotations. She was known as “the hardest clinical instructor” with the highest expectations and the greatest provision of critical thinking skills, all of which influenced the quality of care that students provided to patients under her tutelage. Many SUNY Canton nursing graduates attribute their nursing success to Mrs. Caswell’s mentoring, teaching, and leadership.

In November 2003, Mrs. Caswell began researching and seeking funding for the Simulation (SIM) Hospital for the Registered Nursing Program. Her tireless efforts and persistence paid off, and in fall 2016 the Nursing SIM Hospital opened. For the layout, Mary Ann chose to mimic the nurse's station of Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center, where she provided care to so many patients throughout her career.

The SUNY Canton Nursing SIM Hospital is an educational bridge from classroom learning to clinical patient care. It provides a hands-on learning experience in a safe, realistic environment that enables both RN and LPN students to enhance their critical thinking skills, technical ability, and communication skills through collaboration with peers and instructors. It allows students to evaluate vital signs, heart/breath sounds, experience cardiopulmonary monitoring, and assess the effects of medications given to a patient through interaction with a high-fidelity simulator. The lab is equipped with monitoring devices and infusion delivery systems that mimic equipment used in a variety of hospital nursing departments.

A fundraising campaign was begun after Mrs. Caswell’s death to honor her legacy by naming the Nursing SIM Hospital in her honor, and that campaign has raised \$150,000. It is appropriate to celebrate Mary Ann Caswell’s dedication to the SUNY Canton nursing students, program, and profession, as well as her major efforts to acquiring this amazing tool, by establishing the *Mary Ann Caswell Nursing Simulation Hospital at SUNY Canton*.

## ***Resolution***

### ***The Mary Ann Caswell Nursing Simulation Hospital at SUNY Canton***

***WHEREAS***, Mary Ann Caswell spent her entire career as a nurse serving patients and as a professor at SUNY Canton, increasing the knowledge, confidence, kindness, caring, dedication, persistence, motivation, and teamwork skills of generations of nursing students; and

***WHEREAS***, the Nursing Simulation Hospital serves as an educational bridge from classroom learning to clinical patient care, providing a hands-on learning experience in a safe, realistic environment for SUNY Canton's RN and LPN students; and

***WHEREAS***, a fundraising campaign has raised \$150,000 to name the Nursing Simulation Hospital to honor Mary Ann Caswell's legacy;

***THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:*** That the College Council of the State University of New York, College of Technology at Canton, designates the Nursing Simulation Hospital in Wicks Hall as the Mary Ann Caswell Nursing Simulation Hospital, on this the twenty-second day of September, Two Thousand and Twenty.

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Ronald M. O'Neill  
Chairman, College Council

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Zvi Szafran  
President