SOWELA TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
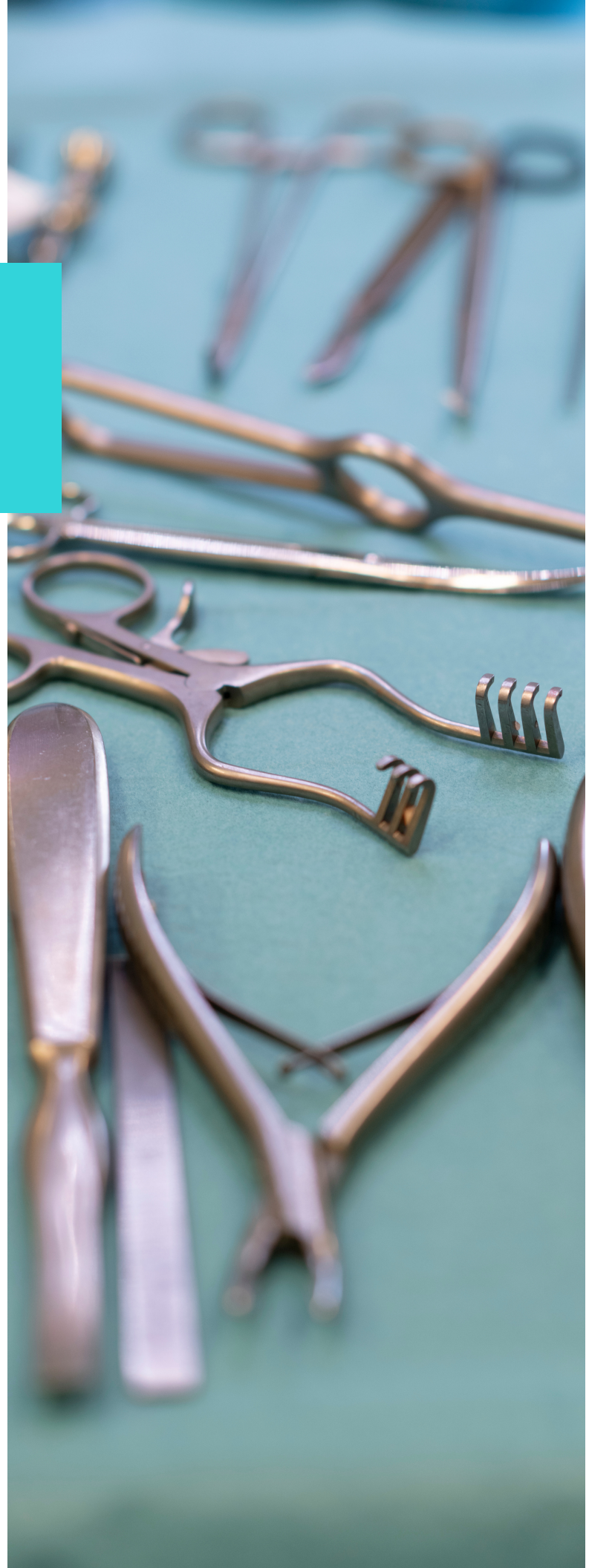
PeriopSim

By conquer experience

THE DISCOVERY

The Surgical Technology program at SOWELA Technical Community College lives its mission to provide a learning environment and experiences in both didactic and clinical training that reflects occupational trends and meets the needs of the region. The Surgical Technology-510909 program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) upon review of the Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC/STSA).

For completion of the program and graduation, the student Surgical Technologist must successfully complete the didactic section, master the lab skills, and perform a minimum number of clinical case hours (120). A minimum grade of a C is required, and upon successful completion of the program, students will receive an Associate of Applied Science degree in Surgical Technology.

During the global coronavirus pandemic, many educational institutions were required to make a sudden shift to virtual or online learning capabilities for their students. Without any tools in place, the students enrolled in the Surgical Technology program were unsure how to get the necessary hands-on learning to support their certification exams.

CUSTOMER GUIDELINES & REQUIREMENTS

In March 2020, Amy Broussard, program director of Surgical Technology at SOWELA Technical Community College requested a demo of PeriopSim. With students preparing to graduate, but no clinical placements were available for students to learn in due to the coronavirus pandemic Amy was starting to panic. She needed to find a solution quickly so that her students could graduate on time, and pass their upcoming exams. Some of the key needs that were identified were access to students learning remotely, insights into how quickly students were able to learn, and the ability to actively monitor progress.

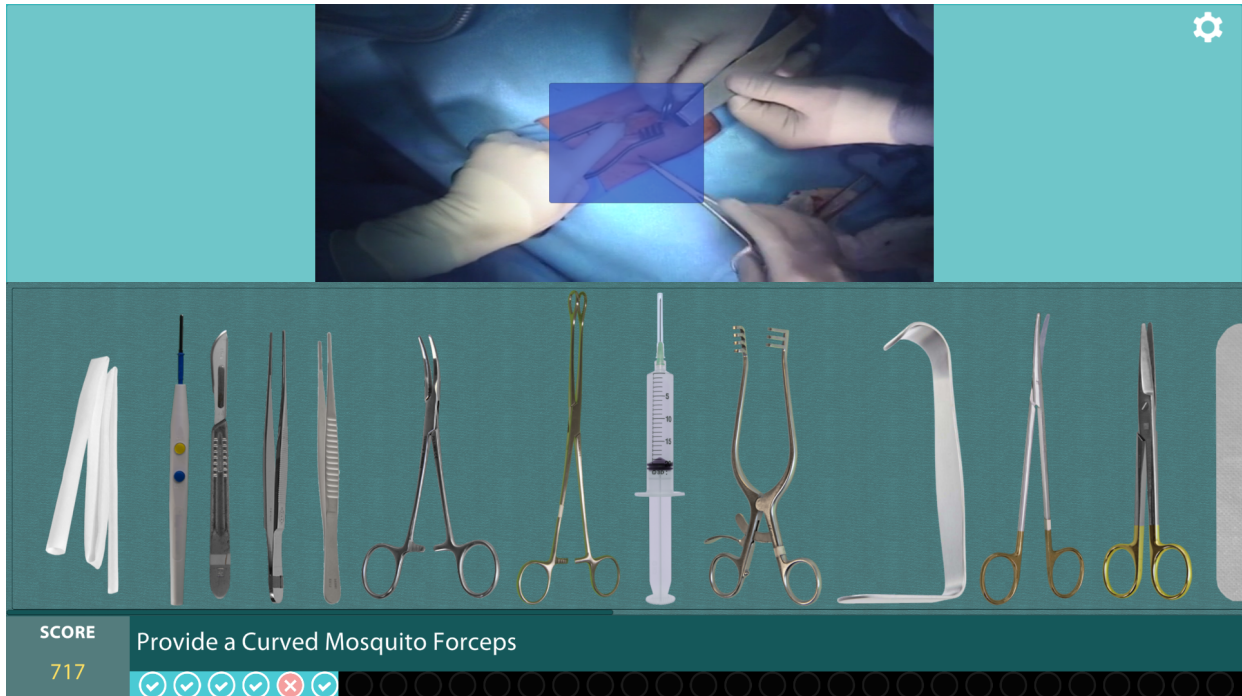After hearing about the desktop application in the Surgical Technology Facebook Educators Group and seeing the potential of the program for her students, Amy reached out to Conquer Experience to secure a demo that she believed would assist her students to prepare for certification in a new virtual world. Once Amy had a chance to explore the program she realized that PeriopSim could help other instructors at SOWELA and reached out to her colleague Coastasia Victorian, the Sterile Processing Program Instructor to see if the program could be shared across multiple programs.

This eventually led to the development of Instrument Models being made available across the institution and built into the standard PeriopSim offering.

> "PERIOPSIM WAS THERE, IT WAS SET UP, IT WAS READY TO GO. ALL I HAD TO DO WAS CREATE USERS AND EVERYTHING ELSE WAS THERE, INCLUDING PHENOMENAL SUPPORT."
>
> -AMY BROUSSARD,
> PROGRAM DIRECTOR SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY

THE SOLUTION

PeriopSim is a surgical training and assessment platform that combines virtual simulations, neuroeducation and game-based learning to save time. When experience is in short supply or too expensive/challenging to attain, simulation training is an ideal option. Pilots have been using simulation for decades and it is a gold standard for certifying and re-certifying competence to fly some of the most complex planes in the world. Healthcare education is catching up.

A National Simulation Study (https://www.ncsbn.org/685.htm) was conducted and the study provides substantial evidence that up to 50% simulation can be effectively substituted for traditional clinical experience in all prelicensure core nursing courses under conditions comparable to those described in the study. It is a study that we use as a foundation in describing how PeriopSim can benefit educators in terms of flexibility in education and time-saving. Additionally, we have been the subject of a number of research studies that you can find more information about here: https://www.periopsim.com/research/

THE SOLUTION

A one-hour surgical simulation procedure is completed in just ten minutes, saving valuable time and reducing overhead costs. 60 minutes of real-time learning = 10 minutes in simulation on PeriopSim. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, PeriopSim had been used by Educators in Departments of Surgical Services in hospitals across Canada and the US for the last few years. Educators use PeriopSim to improve the confidence and competence of perioperative Registered Nurses (RNs) and Surgical Technologists (STs) during their orientation curriculum. PeriopSim can be combined with other learning tools such as AORN's Periop 101, videos, live simulations and preceptor job shadowing. PeriopSim is used to bridge the gap between the classroom and the OR.

There are over 35 Virtual Simulation Experiences on the platform and over 100,000 of these experiences have been completed by over 2000 learners at our customer sites. To build these Experiences, we partnered with our customers at leading healthcare facilities to record the procedures, capture instrumentation and materials. We combine these digital assets with evidence-based guidelines from leading sources including AORN and ORNAC.

THE SOLUTION

The Educators and Surgeons working with us confirm the quality of the module prior to release. We currently have a large pipeline of modules that are at different stages of development and we provide releases on a regular basis.

When COVID-19 impacted healthcare education more abruptly in mid-March 2020, we had some conversations with leaders in the Surgical Technology area in addition to our customers in hospitals across the US and Canada and We knew we had to act quickly and do something in order to respond to the rapid reduction to OR access. This was crucial for students trying to complete their clinicals.

PeriopSim was originally available on iPad and Virtual Reality. Conquer Experience then developed a desktop and tablet application to enable students to use it at home.

THE SOLUTION

At the same time, we had to come up with a low-cost pricing package that would be easy to understand and make sense for schools in the short term as well as in the long term. We created our Educational Institution Package with limited pricing for COVID-19 and went live with communications. This allowed for the early leaders to share the information and get the innovative schools onboard and making simulation for procedures accessible within weeksA key aspect of PeriopSim that didn't require any adjustment is the learning data system that does assessments on learners.

C or a D means they are learning and focusing on accuracy rather than speed. A and B means that they are focusing on speed and delivery because they are already accurate. Incomplete means that they haven't done more than 3 simulations that are required to get an assessment.

The effort would take to do these detailed assessments is near impossible without technology like PeriopSim.

THE OUTCOME

Shortly after receiving a demo kit for the VR headset, Amy was blown away and very quickly moved from the desktop application to the full VR environment. She is especially excited to introduce the powerful tool to her upcoming class of 14 students.

"The whole VR environment is incredible, I forgot there were walls around me and chairs. I really felt like I was in the operating room and we were blown away with the program and I feel like it will be the most used tool in our toolbox. There are some very specific skill sets that the VR system is so perfect for, and I feel like this is a game-changer for my students. I'd love to see some decontamination modules, how to clean/sterilize instruments as well."

Her excitement led to additional media coverage including a television segment and buzz around campus, recognition as the first school in Louisiana to use simulations in class, and a published editorial on the ARC/STSA website explaining Amy's experience with the PeriopSim product. The digital simulation platform aims to help students feel comfortable in an operating room and be able to understand the correct order for steps to be executed during a procedure.

"It helped me so much because a lot of the steps that they were doing, I knew exactly what they were trying to do. I could identify it, and then I actually was able to anticipate what instrument they needed next. If they asked for an instrument, I knew exactly which one it was and it's dark in the OR and you can't see so it helped me with that too." - SOWELA Student, Baylee McBride.

THE OUTCOME

From an instructor's point of view, the proof is in student engagement. Assignments involving PeriopSim are completed on time, and without complaint from students, allowing for quick feedback loops to be established between Instructor and Student. Once a student completes an assignment, the system will generate a usage report that the faculty can use to guide the next lab session or address concepts and challenges with students directly. This proactive approach allows educators to prevent further frustrations before students get into a clinical setting. Another well-received functionality of the PeriopSim environment is the debriefing session. Once a module is complete, students receive real-time feedback on their performance ensuring that the student receives feedback while it is still relevant and fresh in their minds.

> "SOWELA CONSTANTLY STRIVES TO IMPLEMENT THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY IN ORDER TO ENSURE OUR STUDENTS ARE WELL PREPARED WHEN THEY ENTER THE WORKFORCE. THIS NEW TRAINING SYSTEM WILL PROVIDE THE MEANS FOR THE SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY STUDENTS TO LEARN CRITICAL SKILLS THAT HELP THEM BECOME SUCCESSFUL EMPLOYEES IN THE GROWING HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY."
> -DR. NEIL ASPINWALL
> CHANCELLOR, SOWELA TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

THE FACULTY

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CONQUER EXPERIENCE

GET IN TOUCH

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