California State University, Los Angeles
Residential Simulation Lab (RSL)

- A new, innovative, state-of-the art, teaching and training environment available to faculty, students and professionals.
- First of its kind in California that is specifically designed to support the learning and training experiences of social workers, students, and other professionals on issues such as worker safety, interview techniques, communication techniques and conducting multidisciplinary joint investigations.
- An initial model of the Residential Simulation Lab (RSL) was built in August 2013; the RSL was completely renovated in February 2014.
- The RSL is a 528 square foot, one bedroom apartment built to current building code standards. The Lab includes a living room, dining area, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom and closet.
- The RSL can be “staged” to create various home environments (e.g. clean or dirty) to enhance the training and learning experience of attendees/students. Props - such as mock drug paraphernalia, alcohol containers, fake insects – can be added to create a realistic scene.
- Video recording and other AV enhancements will be added to the Lab in the coming months, thereby allowing students and professionals to watch and review their simulation sessions.
- Faculty researchers have begun testing various evaluation instruments to assess the quality and impact of the Residential Simulation Lab on learning and competency retention of participants.
- Other local universities are planning to replicate Cal State LA’s Residential Simulation Lab design, noting its unique use and potential.
- In addition to the RSL, Cal State LA also houses a Nurse Skills Simulation Lab – replicating a hospital environment – and will build a Mock Courtroom at its School of Criminal Justice and Criminalistics. With these three simulation environments, Cal State LA will provide one of the most innovative, interdisciplinary training environments in Los Angeles County for professionals and students to hone their skills and competencies.
To learn more about the Residential Simulation Lab or to schedule a tour, please contact:

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