



## Simulation in Motion-Iowa

Administered by the University of Iowa  
College of Nursing

Iowa City, Iowa 52242  
319-467-1937 (phone)  
833-WE-SIM-IA (toll free)  
[sim-ia.uiowa.edu](http://sim-ia.uiowa.edu)

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 10, 2026

## SIM-IA Reaches Historic 1,000th Training Milestone at Badger Fire and Rescue

BADGER, IA – In a major milestone for rural health care in Iowa, the Simulation in Motion-Iowa (SIM-IA) mobile education program will conduct its 1,000th training today with Badger Fire and Rescue in Badger, Iowa.

SIM-IA is a statewide mobile education program delivering high-quality, evidence-based clinical training to EMS providers, hospital teams, and community members. The program utilizes three semi-sized mobile trucks that emulate emergency room bays and ambulance settings. Each unit houses six advanced patient simulators capable of mimicking realistic human responses, allowing teams to practice life-saving interventions in a controlled environment for analysis and debriefing.

“When our training officers discovered SIM-IA and what it could provide to our department, it was a unanimous decision to set up training with them,” said Badger Fire and Rescue Captain Chad Swanson. “Badger Fire and Rescue never imagined that we would be taking part in a milestone such as this, but we are honored to be SIM-IA’s 1,000th training. We congratulate them on their achievement.”

This milestone highlights SIM-IA’s longstanding efforts to strengthen health outcomes in rural communities with hands-on, high-fidelity clinical education. Between the inaugural training session in June 2022 and December 2025, the program educated more than 17,800 individuals, primarily EMS and nursing providers, while logging nearly 115,000 miles to reach communities in every one of Iowa’s 99 counties.

“Every one of these 1,000 trainings represents healthcare teams who took time out of their demanding schedules to sharpen the skills that save lives,” said Jacinda Bunch, senior advisor for SIM-IA. “Bringing that level of transformative emergency care education directly to rural Iowa has been our mission from the beginning, and we are incredibly proud of what this program has become.”

This training is offered at no cost thanks to support from The Wellmark Foundation. The foundation’s investment in SIM-IA ensures health care professionals in 86 rural and urban-mixed Iowa counties receive training at no cost at least twice per year.

“At Wellmark, we believe where you live should not determine how long and well you live,” said Laura Jackson, executive vice president of health improvement for Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield and chair of The Wellmark Foundation. “Wellmark is proud to support this work, which helps ensure rural health care providers have the training, tools and confidence they need to deliver high-quality care in their community.”

###

### **About SIM-IA**

Administered by the University of Iowa College of Nursing, SIM-IA is a statewide mobile education program delivering high-quality, evidence-based clinical training to EMS providers, hospital teams, and community members.

### **About The Wellmark Foundation**

The Wellmark Foundation is a private, nonprofit foundation created by Wellmark, Inc., to help Iowans and South Dakotans lead healthier and more meaningful lives. The Wellmark Foundation is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association.

### **About Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield**

Wellmark, Inc. (Wellmark.com) does business as Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa. Wellmark and its subsidiaries and affiliated companies insure or pay health benefit claims for more than two million members in Iowa and South Dakota. Wellmark is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.