SIMnet®

Success Story

Pasco-Hernando State College

Challenge

Professor Curtis Scaglione wanted a program with MacOS support, excellent overall technical support, and user-friendly content that engaged students and helped them become career ready.

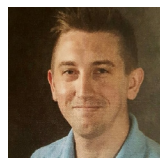### Solution

McGraw Hill's SIMnet® and Digital Badging

Result

With SIMnet and its digital badging, Professor Scaglione has seen a positive increase in student outcomes, including pass rates, exam scores, and student engagement.

"

Microcomputer Applications is a core Gen Ed course, so having students take it early is critical. We can lose many students in those early semesters—having a platform like SIMnet produces results and instills confidence in our administrations and faculty."

Curtis Scaglione

Curtis Scaglione

Program Director
Pasco-Hernando State College
New Port Richey, Florida

The Challenge

Professor Seeks Program to Engage Students and Increase Career Readiness

With over 2800 students annually, engaging students and excellent technical support were top priorities when analyzing online training and assessment platforms for the Microcomputer Applications course. Preparing students to be career-ready was also a priority, as Microsoft Office skills are in high demand in various work environments.

The Solution

SIMnet is a User-Friendly Platform with Numerous Support Options. Digital Badging Motivates Students and Improves Student Outcomes and Career-Readiness.

When implementing SIMnet, McGraw Hill offers many layers of support, including:

- Meeting with a digital faculty consultant
- Videos and help sites for instructors and students with step-by-step guidance on navigating the platform
- Events to learn best practices from other instructors using SIMnet

Instructors and students needing additional support can quickly connect with McGraw Hill's technical support team by phone or online chat. "Our previous platform was complex; SIMnet is user-friendly and offers many support options to assist students in getting a strong start," says Professor Scaglione.

The Microcomputer Applications course has students from multiple disciplines, all with unique learning styles. SIMnet provides simulations with audio narrations, interactive exercises, and opportunities to practice skills on all the concepts in an intuitive, easy-to-use, and accessible format via the Show Me, Guide Me, and Let Me Try activities.

SIMnet's complimentary Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) prep materials, life-long access, and digital badging improve students' career readiness. "As students begin to visualize how they can apply the skills to what they want to do professionally, this becomes, in essence, the key to success in our courses we as educators must shine a light on and provide," says Professor Scaglione. Students can share these digital badges online and with employers to gain

a competitive edge in the job market and advance their careers. With life-long access, students can continue earning badges throughout college and their careers. "Students recently have asked about accessing SIMnet after class for certification preparation," says Professor Scaglione.

The Results

Pass Rates, Exam Scores, and Student Engagement Improve with SIMnet and Digital Badging

SIMbooks, interactive eBooks that provide instructional content and low-stakes, formative exercises to help students develop skills, have positively impacted exam scores. "In a sample class of 29 students, 24/29 students (83%) have passing grade averages on exams, and our passing rate with consistency has been over 80%, in many cases 90-95%, which is ideal for us," says Professor Scaglione.

Pasco-Hernando State College has cultivated a culture where digital badging is more than just an achievement—it's a stepping stone toward career success. By incentivizing students to earn and share SIMnet badges, the institution encourages them to enhance their digital profiles and demonstrate their expertise to potential employers to help students gain a competitive edge in the job market or advance in their careers. "We talk about the employability of these badges and the skills they earn, and we discuss how they can add them to their publicly facing profiles," says Professor Scaglione. Pasco-Hernando State College typically issues 4,825 digital badges annually, totaling 19,300 digital badges spanning four years.

> **"I have had a student who expressed they got a job largely in part because they had an Excel SIMNet digital credential. Digital badging is a wonderful way not only to say you have mastery, but also to show it."**

19,300
Digital Badges

Implementation

Breakdown of Course Grade:

20% - SIMbooks

30% - SIMnet Projects

20% - SIMnet Capstone Projects

20% - SIMnet Exams

10% - Quizzes (in Canvas)

Professor Scaglione assigns SIMbooks to prepare students for the projects, capstones, and exams and regularly uses the reports in SIMnet to support the students better.

School Profile

Pasco-Hernando State College combines high-tech educational facilities and state-of-the-art programs focusing on teaching for student success. Students can expect personalized attention, small class sizes, highly credentialed faculty, and tuition and fees that are among the most affordable in Florida. PHSC provides training for more than 30 high-demand careers in business, health, industry and technology, and public service through new bachelor's degree, Associate in Science degree, and certificate programs.

Instructor Bio

Professor Curtis Scaglione brings a wealth of experience as an Information Technology professional turned educator. Beginning at Triad Retail Media in Tampa, FL, a multi-national marketing firm, and working with an undisclosed (NDA) government contract focusing on community protection databases, Professor Scaglione then served as a Network Administrator at a local school in Pasco County, FL. Professor Scaglione transitioned to teaching and working as a computer technician at Pasco-Hernando Community College. Over a decade of teaching experience, Professor Scaglione's expertise spans Cybersecurity, Project Management, Networking, Programming, and Web Design, shaping the curriculum and inspiring students in Information Technology and Cybersecurity.