




**GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY**  
 SCHOOL OF NURSING & HEALTH STUDIES

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## Dynamic Learning Takes Next Step Introducing the NHS Situation Room

IF A PANDEMIC INFLUENZA OUTBREAK STRIKES THE WORLD,  
HOW SHOULD THE GLOBAL HEALTH COMMUNITY RESPOND?

Students, across all four departments at NHS, will soon have a new, dynamic learning facility to learn the answers to that multifaceted question—right in St. Mary's Hall.

*“Will there be enough personnel and supplies,”* asks a health care management & policy major.

*“What interventions are needed to stop the disease,”* asks an international health major.

*“Does this viral strain differ from previous outbreaks,”* asks a human science major.

*“How do we prepare for a certain influx of patients,”* asks a nursing major.

The NHS Situation Room—modeled after federal facilities at the White House, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—will be the first of its kind in a higher education setting.

In the Situation Room, students will run through health scenarios that use the latest in simulation technology, learn how to think critically on

their feet, work together in interdisciplinary teams, analyze vast amounts of data, and make crucial—often life-saving—decisions.

“Our school is a leader in discovery and experiential learning,” said NHS Dean **Bette Jacobs**. “The Situation Room builds upon our Clinical Simulation Center and our Discovery Center. These dynamic facilities provide important hands-on academic training for our students and position them for success in careers that run the health care spectrum.”

LEARNING

DISCOVERY

DATA



NHS faculty members have been busy developing realistic scenarios. And the school's Parents Council has spearheaded fundraising efforts.

"The Situation Room—a world first at an academic institution—is evidence of the unique intellectual culture at the School of Nursing & Health Studies and its commitment to educate leaders in health care," said **Mike Seergy**, co-chair of the Parents Council.

"From my view, NHS culture is centered on providing learning experiences through a dedicated and committed faculty who provides unique challenges and opportunities to all students," he said.

"These opportunities and experiences will undoubtedly enable NHS graduates to lead others and deliver on the school's mission to improve the health and well being of all people," he said.

**Dominic DiNapoli**, a member of the Parents Council, echoed Seergy's sentiments.

"The Situation Room provides Georgetown students with the opportunity to develop solutions for some of the most complex issues that could arise in a domestic or global health crisis," he said. "Imagine having the ability to challenge our students to strategically develop an action plan to react

to a pandemic flu outbreak, a bioterrorist attack, or a natural disaster."

"The applications and applicability of this form of innovative teaching to other schools at Georgetown, as well as partnerships with government and industry are endless," DiNapoli said.

#### KEY FEATURES

- Six contiguous flat panel television displays for individualized or combined broadcasting up to 12 feet.
- Two additional 65-inch flat screen televisions.
- Executive-style conference table.
- Clocks set to different time zones.
- Studio-style, high-drama lighting.
- Real-time news casting capabilities.
- Advanced technology for diverse roll-playing sessions.
- Bioinformatics and data storage.
- Podium and white boards for teaching exercises.
- Team-oriented seating arrangement.
- Break-out discussion space.

#### LEARN MORE

Contact **Maureen Marsh**, NHS director of development, at (202) 687-7152 or [marshm@georgetown.edu](mailto:marshm@georgetown.edu). Write "Situation Room" in the subject line.

#### “FROM THE CDC...

*It's very exciting what the school is undertaking in constructing this facility. Clearly, if we are going to be successful during a public health crisis, we need to have people who understand and have practiced in a setting of emergency response.*

*The activities you are undertaking are very much in line with efforts that are taking place on a national level to promote training in emergency preparedness and response. In December of 2006, Congress passed a bill called the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act. One of sections of the bill calls for the development of core curricula in the area of preparedness and response at all levels. It looks at development of curricula for undergraduate and graduate students. When you talk about curricula, you need to talk about not just what should you study and learn, but what should you practice and do.*

*Having a mock emergency operations center will provide that opportunity for learning.”*

— **Richard Besser**  
 Director of the Coordinating Office for Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response  
 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention