Social Simulation

Have you heard about Social Simulation?

Nearly 1,500 people have participated in social justice-focused simulations this year! In 2018, our new Social Simulation program partnered with area stakeholders, including nonprofits, local schools, healthcare providers, and Native American Tribes, training over topics ranging from interpersonal violence, to identification of child abuse and neglect, to eradicating poverty. Social simulation not only teaches new skills, the activities are also effective at building empathy to create social change.

The Poverty Simulation is our most popular training with over 1,000 participants this year. Developed by Missouri Community Action
Network, this simulation allows people to “live in poverty” by going to work or school, paying bills, and living the daily lives of their assigned character for four 15-minute weeks. After the hour-long simulation, there is an extensive debrief and short presentation about Oklahomans living in poverty. Participants overwhelmingly report a significant change in attitudes and beliefs regarding factors contributing to poverty. We facilitated 16 Poverty Simulations in 2018, and already have nine more booked for next year!

We also work to design simulations that are specific to an agency or employer’s needs – such as how to have a critical conversation, or how to de-escalate a child.

We are pleased with our first year of activities and we know next year will be even better. If you are interested in hearing more about our programs, please contact Gloria Miller at gloria.miller@ou.edu or Jess Roberts at jroberts@ou.edu.