



AGFA RADIOLOGY SOLUTIONS

‘Excellence’ in education

For the radiography students at Madison College Campus, two new VALORY™ labs are giving them the chance to learn on cutting-edge technology, better preparing them for ‘real’ imaging environments

 **Case study** – Kentucky Community & Technical College System (KCTCS), Madisonville College Campus

AGFA 

Case study

Interview with



Dr. Joy Menser,
Program Director
and Instructor for the
Madisonville Community
College Radiography
Program



Dr. Jay Parrent,
Vice-President,
Administration
for Madisonville
Community College

“I often tell my radiography students ‘The way you practice is the way you’ll play’. In other words, their experience in our X-ray laboratory will have a significant impact on their performance in their hospital clinical placements. Our two new VALORY™ rooms allow our students to get comfortable working with the latest equipment on the market, which helps them acclimate more quickly to real healthcare environments. That’s a benefit for them, for the healthcare facilities, and for the patients,” starts Dr. Joy Menser, Program Director and Instructor for the Madisonville Community College Radiography Program. Dr. Menser is also a graduate of the program, receiving her degree in 1983.



From classroom, to lab, to hospital

Madisonville Community College is one of the 16 colleges that make up the Kentucky Community & Technical College System (KCTCS). “Healthcare education is a big part of what we do, and our Radiography Program is one of the essential programs in this field. It has an excellent reputation and has been very successful in graduating highly trained radiographers for hospitals and medical facilities,” explains Dr. Jay Parrent, Vice-President, Administration for Madisonville Community College.

The two-year Associate’s Degree program combines classroom, laboratory and clinical education, the last through placements in healthcare facilities. “The lab work starts in the first semester; students are in the classroom for eight weeks, learning everything from anatomy to positioning of patients for imaging. And for that, we go immediately into the lab, where they work with mannequins. Practicing in the lab is extremely important to build students’ sense of comfort, so they can then take those skills to the clinical floor and use them on real patients. It also helps the patients if they see that the student radiographer is confident and competent,” describes Dr. Menser.

Fit to budget

The equipment in the lab thus plays a fundamental role in the students’ education, and in preparing them to work in clinical environments. “Our previous machines were outdated: the students could still use them and learn with them, but they weren’t anything like what the students were seeing in the clinical placements,” she continues.

Then, in 2022, the college received a grant to replace the laboratory equipment. After discussions with long-term supplier Radiation Services of Indiana (RSI), the college purchased two VALORY™ rooms. The most important criterion for Dr. Menser was cutting-edge technology. “I explained to RSI that I needed a

solution that wouldn’t be outdated in a few years: I wanted something that would be good for another decade. RSI told me that Agfa, and VALORY™, is definitely cutting edge. That was information I could bring back to the administration, to get their approval.”

In addition, the solution was cost-effective, which meant the college could also replace other lab equipment. “It’s very rare that you can change out all your equipment at once, but with VALORY™, we were not only able to replace our two outdated X-ray rooms, but we had enough left over to replace our mannequins, as well, and to purchase a DR 100s mobile unit!”



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Dr. Joy Menser

Program Director and Instructor for the Madisonville Community College Radiography Program

Beyond the basics

The two VALORY™ rooms were installed in the fall of 2022. “RSI and Agfa replaced one room at a time, to ensure we would always have a lab available for our students. Despite a few hiccups, the installation went smoothly. You will always have a few bumps along the road when you are installing new equipment, but RSI and Agfa were very responsive and addressed them quickly,” she explains.

With the VALORY™ rooms up and running, the faculty and students jumped right in. “It was very easy to learn to use the VALORY™ rooms, even for the students who had previously been working on our old systems. They are easy to use overall and have very practical and handy features. For example, there is an open

space underneath the table, which lets you get a patient in a wheelchair closer in. This reduces the number of steps the patient has to take, and the strain on the radiographer as well. I also appreciate the color-coded buttons on the tubehead, which match the overhead tracking. That helps our students get acclimated more quickly to which button is for which tube position. And the autotracking for the bucky reduces imaging repeats, which, in a clinical environment, decreases patient radiation dose.”

Having two rooms with the same system offers its own benefits. “Our students can login, go into either room and pull up their record. Plus, we can use the detectors in either room, so if one isn’t charged, we can just bring the other one in.”



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Strengthening relationships

The VALORY™ rooms are already getting noticed in the healthcare community around Madisonville Community College Campus. “I’ve had several medical facilities reach out to see if they can come take a look at our VALORY™ rooms,” notes Dr. Menser. “I am confident VALORY™ will work as well in clinical as in educational settings. The overall needs are the same, after all: quality, ease of use, robustness. Plus, VALORY™ is up and running very quickly.”

Strengthening relationships with medical facilities like this is key for the program, because the number of students that can be accepted is limited by the number of clinical placements available. “I’m always working to find new clinical placements; being able to show the facilities that our students are learning on the most up-to-date equipment, and that they will acclimate more quickly to the live clinical environment, helps strengthen our message,” she adds.

Dr. Parrent agrees: “It is very important for the program’s reputation, and for the healthcare facilities we work with, that we prepare our students using the most up-to-date equipment, supplies and materials that we possibly can. And that includes training them on equipment they will actually be seeing in the clinical environment.”



Filling the radiographer gap

While nurses may be ‘the hands of the physician’, radiographers, according to Dr. Menser, are the physician’s ‘eyes’. “For over 100 years, doctors have relied on imaging for diagnosis; radiographers thus play a very integral and important role in healthcare. This makes the current shortage of radiographers even more concerning, especially as an aging population and greater use of imaging in patient care increase overall demand on radiology. There are a lot of very exciting opportunities for new radiographers, so we want to make sure to offer the best opportunities to people who are interested in this field.”

Throughout the experience of selecting, implementing and using the VALORY™ rooms, the college's relationships with Agfa and RSI have also continued to strengthen. "We were very happy to discover that Agfa listens to our feedback and acts on it. Furthermore, the Agfa engineers are knowledgeable and ready to answer our questions. And RSI, as always, has been extremely helpful in enabling us to do the most with our resources. With the VALORY™ rooms, I feel like we are offering our students 'the latest and greatest' equipment, and I am very pleased with both RSI and Agfa, who are dedicated to helping us achieve our goals," Dr. Menser concludes.



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Dr. Joy Menser



DR 100s: Mobile excellence

Madisonville Community College also purchased an Agfa DR 100s mobile solution for the lab. "It's very important for students to learn to work with a mobile unit, and the DR 100s is great. I especially appreciate the alignment of the tubehead and detector. Misalignment is one of the biggest reasons for repeats: the DR 100s detects if the alignment is correct and displays this on an easy-to-see bar." Dr. Menser

Agfa solutions



Two VALORY™ digital radiography rooms, delivering ‘Excellence. Pure and Simple.’:



A simple design with functionality that goes far beyond the ‘basics’



Maximum configuration flexibility



MUSICA® image quality that supports confident diagnosis



Wireless Dura-line Cesium Iodide detectors that deliver robust reliability, cost-effectiveness and potential for significant patient dose reduction



Features such as autotracking and auto-centering that keep exams moving quickly



DR 100s:



Fast, high-quality DR imaging with excellent maneuverability and ease of use.

DID YOU KNOW

- The Kentucky Community & Technical College System (KCTCS) includes 16 colleges across Kentucky. Madisonville Community College serves a five-county area in rural Kentucky. Depending on the year, it has about 3,500 students. All sixteen KCTCS Colleges are accredited by Southern

Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

- Madisonville Community College offers associate degree programs, as well as technical diplomas and certificates, with the overall purpose of making postsecondary educational opportunities available

to Kentucky’s citizens and workforce.

- The Radiography Program has about 40 students each year (1st and 2nd year combined). Classroom instruction is closely correlated with guided clinical practice in affiliated healthcare.

AGFA RADIOLOGX SOLUTIONS

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