

## The Community as a Learner Group

Cathyann Feher RN,MSN  
*Lehigh Valley Health Network, Cathyann.Feher@lvhn.org*

Karen L. Kutner MBA  
*Lehigh Valley Health Network, Karen.Kutner@lvhn.org*

Robert Ruhf  
*Lehigh Valley Health Network, Robert.Ruhf@lvhn.org*

Charles Scagliotti MD,FACS  
*Lehigh Valley Health Network, Charles.Scagliotti@lvhn.org*

Michael M. Badellino MD  
*Lehigh Valley Health Network, Michael.Badellino@lvhn.org*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlyworks.lvhn.org/surgery>



Part of the [Medical Education Commons](#), [Other Medical Specialties Commons](#), [Public Health Education and Promotion Commons](#), and the [Surgery Commons](#)

**Let us know how access to this document benefits you**

---

### Published In/Presented At

Feher, C., Kutner, K., Ruhf, R., Scagliotti, C., & Badellino, M. (2013, March 16-17). *The community as a learner group*. Poster presented at: The 5th Annual American College of Surgeons - Consortium of ACS Accredited Education Institutes, Chicago, IL.

This Poster is brought to you for free and open access by LVHN Scholarly Works. It has been accepted for inclusion in LVHN Scholarly Works by an authorized administrator. For more information, please contact [LibraryServices@lvhn.org](mailto:LibraryServices@lvhn.org).



# The Community as a Learner Group

Cathyann Feher, RN, MSN, Karen L. Kutner, MBA, Robert Ruhf, Charles Scagliotti, MD, FACS, Michael M. Badellino, MD, FACS  
Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, Pennsylvania

## Introduction:

The identification of the community as another learner group has provided a platform for the public to learn about Lehigh Valley Health Network's commitment to education, how surgeons are trained and offer guidance to those interested in a surgical career.

## Results:

In 2 years, over 1000 community members, ranging in age from 9 – 90 have been exposed to an aspect of surgical training.

## Conclusions:

By educating the community, we hope to not only stimulate an interest in a surgical career, but also to identify potential donors to support surgical education.

© 2013 Lehigh Valley Health Network

## Method:

Recognizing that LVHN is a community asset, a concentrated effort to invite the public to the Surgery Education Center was implemented. The following surgical training activities were offered:

- **Elementary School Students:** The Pennsylvania LEGO™ Robotic Team champions (aka future engineers), comprised of 9 – 12 year olds, completed dvTrainer™ drills.
- **Elementary – Post Graduate Students:** LVHN sponsored a Simulation Olympics. In conjunction with the local science fair, 12 days of events centered on educating the public about robotic surgery.
- **Junior High Students:** Complete a 4 hour hands-on experience
- **High School Students:** Seniors entering health care field spend 2 days in a hands- on experience including task trainers, suture clinic, surgical simulators and FLS drills, culminating in a Top Gun competition.
- **Undergraduate Students:** Our region is home to 9 universities/ colleges. Partnering with pre-medical programs, an evolving curriculum is being developed.
- **All Ages:** LVHN's Board and Senior Leadership host an Annual Community Meeting attracting over 250 attendees who interacted with attending and resident surgeons, "practiced" on task trainers and simulators, performed microscopic "vein" dissection, learned how to suture and most importantly gained knowledge as to how tomorrow's surgeons are trained today.



A PASSION FOR BETTER MEDICINE.™

Lehigh Valley  
Health Network

610-402-CARE LVHN.org