Governor Noem’s recommended budget includes $4,500,000 in one-time funding to support simulation equipment and technology in the new Health Sciences Clinical Simulation Center at Southeast Technical College (STC) in Sioux Falls.

The new center at STC will address tremendous workforce demands in the healthcare field and house simulation equipment and learning laboratories to support the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN), Registered Nursing (RN), Sonography, and Surgical Technologist programs.

The STC Health Sciences Clinical Simulation Center will improve the quality of instruction and increase student capacity in critical health sciences fields. STC estimates the center will lead to an additional 150 students enrolled in health sciences programs annually. The State of South Dakota’s commitment will support necessary equipment for the center, which will include an emergency room simulation lab, six state-of-the-art simulation hospital rooms, eight simulation patient sonography exam rooms, two surgical suites, a modernized cardiac invasive operating room, and five simulated general practice office exam rooms.

The overall estimated design, renovation, and acquisition cost of the STC Health Sciences Clinical Simulation Center is $14,750,000. The commitment from the State of South Dakota will be matched by $2,500,000 from Avera and $2,500,000 from Sanford to cover the cost of renovating the existing Zeal Center. The current value of the Zeal Center is estimated at $5,250,000, with the annual cost of leasing the facility and eventual purchase supported by the City of Sioux Falls, Forward Sioux Falls, and the Sioux Falls Development Foundation.