Chad Epps: From Biology Teacher to Simulation Professor

Chad Epps always thought he’d be a teacher. And, in fact, he was. He started his career as a 9th grade biology teacher. But he had an interest in medical school, and a personal motivation as well.

During their childhood, Epps’ sister was involved in a serious car accident, and was also the victim of a medical error that has dramatically affected her abilities to this day. Epps was motivated to help others through medicine, to prevent medical errors and to continue as an educator. A career in healthcare simulation was born.

Today, Epps is the Executive Director of Simulation and Professor, Departments of Interprofessional Education and Anesthesiology University of Tennessee Health Science Center, where he is overseeing the development of the Center for Healthcare Improvement and Patient Simulation, a new 45,000-square-foot standalone simulation center that will open this spring.

And Epps is committed to the advancement of healthcare simulation as a profession, currently serving as the Immediate Past President of SSH.

“Participation in simulation was a way to continue to be an educator alongside clinical practice,” Epps said. “However, this isn’t just about educating students; this is a tool that we can use in many ways to improve how healthcare is delivered,” he said. “Through the society, we are trying to position ourselves to have more of a voice, and cultivate a culture of advocacy.”

“SSH is still a young organization,” Epps said, that has been growing and maturing as it should with a focus on its members, but the next step is to provide value in a global way and to advance the field by promoting of the value of simulation.