



The Indiana Mock Surgery- An Advocacy and Media Success

In 2009, the Indiana State Assembly of the Association of Surgical Technologists demonstrated a complete total knee surgical procedure in the Capitol to demonstrate the crucial role played by all members of the operative team, particularly the role played by the Certified Surgical Technologist.

The mock surgery was an effort to educate the public as well as lawmakers regarding the importance of classroom and clinical training for everyone that works in the operating room.

Surgical technologists were the only professionals in Indiana operating rooms not required by law to have any particular training or further credentialing as prerequisite to being hired in Indiana. The surgical demonstration took place on Wednesday, March 5th, on the third floor of the Indiana State House.

Dana Fields, CST, Vice President of the Indiana State Assembly of AST stated, "Today, in operating rooms throughout our state, there are literally hundreds of surgeries being performed. Perhaps, you or one of your loved ones has had surgery recently. With recent outbreaks of the flu, the increase in the number of individuals contracting Hepatitis B and C, and hospital acquired infections; it is imperative that our health care providers are properly trained. We expect that our physician will be one of the medical staff in the operating room. But, do you know all of the people behind the masks? How can you be certain everyone in that room is educated, skilled, and qualified to perform surgery?"

The demonstration was filmed by three television stations, including an NBC, ABC, and Fox affiliate station, all of which provided some great attention getting coverage. Both Sherri Alexander, AST President, and Dana Fields, IAST Vice President, were interviewed on camera. ***To view videos from the coverage, please click the links on the right.***

In 2009, the Governor signed into law the certification legislation for surgical technologists in Indiana! To see the law, visit www.ast.org, Public Policy, Legislative Map.

