Research findings from the University of Central Florida indicate that avatar-based simulation can effectively support teacher preparation much like a flight simulator prepares pilots for the air.

Researchers found that after practicing teachers completed four 10-minute “virtual rehearsal” sessions in the simulator, their frequency of describe and explain questions increased significantly and transferred back to their classroom teaching, resulting in more higher order questions for their students.

Furthermore, students whose teachers received TeachLivE™ professional development made positive academic gains.

- The American Association for Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) selected the TLE TeachLivE™ Lab for its coveted 2012 Best Practices Award for the innovative use of technology.
- TLE TeachLivE™ was awarded the 2013 National Training and Simulation Association (NTSA) Award for outstanding achievement in training.
- The NSTA 2013 Governor’s Award for Excellence in Modeling and Simulation was awarded to TLE TeachLivE™.

The current version of TeachLivE™ requires only a typical computer, a large display and a Microsoft Kinect to allow users to move about the environment and have “natural” interactions with the avatars representing students. For more information, see www.ucf.edu/teachlive.

TLE TeachLivETM is a mixed-reality, avatar-based simulation environment that provides users the opportunity to practice a targeted skill. Similar simulation technologies are common in medicine and aviation, but TLE TeachLivETM is the only one of its kind in education, providing a personalized learning environment customized to the unique needs of teachers-in-training or practicing teachers looking to brush up on their skills or try out new techniques.