

With bachelor's and master's degrees in business, Audrey Anderson understood the role of marketability in a commercial climate. When it came time to set her personal career goals, she easily applied this concept to herself.

"I decided to focus my career on an area of growth," she recalls, "and that area of growth was continuing education."

Today, Dr. Audrey Anderson is Dean of the Division of Extended Education at California State University, Fresno. Her anticipation of the potential for success in her field has been realized.

"The adult student phenomenon is very real," Dr. Anderson notes. "There is no question of the growing trend toward continuous education and reeducation in the professions. Rapidly advancing technologies are requiring regular learning updates for practitioners."

After initially teaching high school and community college courses, Dr. Anderson embarked on a career path that has taken her from one coast to the other. Having earned her doctorate in educational psychology, she served as associate director of the Urban Teacher Preparation Program at Syracuse University in New York.

Following a stay at the University of Maryland, where she was in charge of special education in-service programs, Dr. Anderson returned to Syracuse as associate director of the SUNY Educational Opportunity Center.

Dr. Anderson has observed a professional

distinction between adult and continuing education in her various positions, as each university system has formulated its own definition of continuing education. Often, adult education is seen as a subset of the broader concept of continuing education.

At Iowa State University, where she served as associate dean for university extension prior to accepting her current position at CSUF, the thrust was aimed primarily at professional development.

"Here at CSUF, we cover a broader spectrum by including more offerings for personal development, as well as travel-study options," Dr. Anderson says of the program she has headed for a year. "We have six major areas of concern — Winter and Summer Sessions, Travel Study, Concurrent Enrollment, Non-Credit Programs and Extension Classes. Our audiences vary, from individuals who seek a particular activity to improve their quality of life, to those interested in professional career enhancement."

Each of these program areas, according to the new dean, is holding steady or experiencing growth. The future, Dr. Anderson believes, is bright.

"I really see the Division of Extended Education as the primary agency for coordinating the university's outreach and public service mission. We are providing a service to the part-time adult student who otherwise might not have the opportunity to continue their education through regular admissions. Our business is to extend



**Audrey Anderson**

Dean

Division of  
Extended Education

the resources of CSUF at times, in places and in formats that are most accessible to adult learners.

"Our mandate is to go beyond Fresno to the four-county service area of Kings, Madera, northern Tulare and Fresno counties. We plan to ascertain the needs in these areas by interviewing key people — agency administrators, chambers of commerce and boards of education, for example. Then we will seek to match the university's resources with identified needs where feasible."

Lofty goals, perhaps, but Dr. Anderson believes the university administration, faculty and staff are poised to meet the challenge.

"Continuing education at CSUF is a shared responsibility. The Division of Extended Education is a broker of collegiate and departmental programs. The faculty has shown an openness and receptivity in terms of new ideas. It's a very positive atmosphere — one that is dynamic and exciting. The possibilities are limitless."