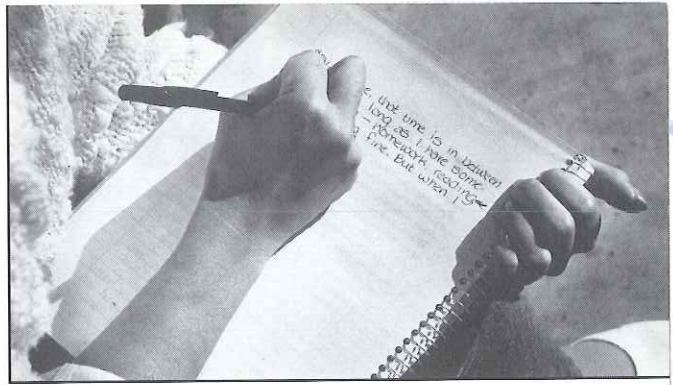


The vehicles for this decade will be partnerships, joint research agendas, and interdisciplinary programs, as we work toward improving the quality of education for all the children of all the people.

Barbara G. Burch, Dean
School of Education and Human Development



Unpretentiously, she brushes it off as a “strange combination.” But one look at the diversity in Barbara Burch’s resume will tell you that the new dean of the School of Education and Human Development has a great deal to contribute — not only to CSU, Fresno but to our larger educational community as well.

This industrious educator — with her numerous and varied degrees, coupled with “real world” experience — received her appointment as dean in August 1989.

Now, looking to the future, she begins: “The School of Education and Human Development is a doorway between the university and the school community. To prepare educators for the ‘real world’ and to make a positive difference in the quality of schooling, we must be heavily involved with our colleagues in the world of practice. I see us working even more closely in partnerships with schools in the planning and delivery of our programs as well as in joint research initiatives.”

As for tomorrow’s teachers, Burch explains, “Education majors complete two student teaching experiences, and one of them must be in a school with high levels of student diversity and ‘at risk’ learners. We expect our students to be prepared with the knowledge, skills, and values to work effectively with students of diverse backgrounds.

“This is a very unique university and community. Nowhere in the country can you find the opportunities that we have in Fresno; this city is a microcosm of diversity in every sense of the word and represents a precursor of where we are going nationally. We have

Dean Barbara Burch sees a bright future for the School of Education and Human Development. Blueprints for a new education building map out a comprehensive learning development center with model classrooms, a graduate studies center, and clinics for reading, counseling, and special education.

an opportunity here to become an educational model for dealing with diversity in ways that ensure that every individual learns and develops to maximum potential.”

Burch also shares her concern about the high school student drop-out rate, which is approximately 30 percent locally and nationally.

“The people who do not make it through the system can’t even begin to think about attending a university,” she says emphatically. “And, the quality of students who come to this campus will impact the future quality of every academic department here. Your business leaders, scientists, artists, teachers ... everyone in this university has a major stake in what happens in K through 12 schools.”

During her tenure at Memphis State University, Burch was a principal writer and project director for grants totaling more than \$1.7 million. She also received a Professional Writing Award from the Association of Teacher Education for an article that explored new directions for schools of education.

“You see, our role in preparing teachers for grades K through 12 is widely recognized,” Burch says, “but I believe that a school of education also has an obligation to be responsive in training educators who work in non-school settings. People in hospitals, community agencies, and the world of work also need to know how to facilitate learning and how to best educate their employees and clients.

“While the K through 12 schools are our principal mission and focus, I feel that education is too important and too critical an enterprise to assume that one can address it only in grades K through 12. It is a birth to aged consideration — a lifetime need. Our school expects to respond to that need.”

