

The News

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

Feb 17, 2010

Cynthia Anderson named seventh president of YSU

Cynthia Anderson, vice president for Student Affairs at Youngstown State University for the past 15 years, has been named the seventh president of the university.

At a meeting this afternoon, the nine-member YSU Board of Trustees voted in favor of Anderson's appointment. The board still needs to finalize a contract with Anderson.

A graduate of YSU who has served in a succession of faculty and administrative positions at the university for 31 years, Anderson will take office July 1. She will replace David C. Sweet, who retires after 10 years at the university's helm.

Anderson will be the first woman, the first Youngstown native, and the first YSU graduate to serve as president in YSU's 102-year history.

"Today, Dr. Anderson becomes one of Youngstown State University's most prominent success stories," said YSU Trustees Chair Scott R. Schulick, who also chaired the Presidential Search Advisory Committee. "She has lived the YSU dream and will go down in the history of the institution for entering as a student and ending her career as the university's president. We, as a campus community and community at large, should be very proud of that fact."

He added: "At the end of the day, the selection of the university president is about 'fit' and Dr. Anderson was the all-around best 'fit' for YSU. This is an historic day for Youngstown State University, and we must celebrate this milestone accomplishment."

Anderson said she is honored to be named president, and she thanked members of the Board of Trustees for the confidence they have in her abilities to lead the university into the future.

"I look forward to working with my colleagues at the university to provide the kinds of services and programs that are beneficial to both students and the community," she said. "I also look forward to continuing to strengthen the university's ties with the business community and working together to improve economic development throughout the region."

"I thank everyone for their confidence and support throughout this process, and I look forward to their continued support as we move forward."



▲ Cynthia Anderson

Anderson's selection caps a search that began last July, when the Board of Trustees announced the appointment of the 22-member Presidential Search Advisory Committee and the selection of a consulting firm, Storbeck Pimentel, to assist in the search process.

Anderson earned a bachelor's degree in business education from YSU in 1973, a master's in business education from Ohio State University in 1976 and an Ed.D. in education administration (higher education) and student personnel services from the University of Akron in 1990.

After five years of teaching business education at Westerville South High School, she joined the YSU faculty in 1979 as an instructor of business education and technology. She was named assistant professor in 1985, associate professor in 1990, associate professor of marketing and public relations in 1994, and was promoted to professor of marketing and public relations in 2000, a post that she currently retains. She was assistant provost for academic planning from 1993 to 1995 and was named vice president for student affairs in 1995.

As vice president, she has been responsible for all matters pertaining to the areas of enrollment management, student services, student life and campus security, including recruitment and retention efforts, direction and coordination of student activities, student government, student registration, records, scholarships and financial aid. She also has overseen the Center for Student Progress, testing services, health enhancement and student health services, career services, housing, auxiliary services, student counseling services, academic support services, disability services, student recreation center, campus police and many other areas pertaining directly to service to students.

Initiatives under her leadership include development of the Enrollment Management Plan and Student Recruitment Plan, the first formal New Student Orientation program known as SOAR, the first New Student Convocation program, the Office of Veterans Affairs, the Center for Student Progress, the Office of the Student Ombudsman, the Office of Campus Recreation and Intramural Sports, the Presidential Mentors Program, the Emerging Leaders Program and campus safety programs such as the Student Threat Assessment Team and the YSU Alert emergency notification system.

Anderson's scholarly activities include dozens of journal articles, conference proceedings and presentations. She is active in the community, serving on the board of directors for the Neil Kennedy Recovery Clinic, Leadership Mahoning Valley, the Rich Center for Autism and the United Methodist Community Center, among others. In 2004, she received the ATHENA Award, presented annually by the Youngstown–Warren Regional Chamber and *The Vindicator* to a woman who exhibits professional excellence, community service, and career support for other women. Other honors include the 2005–06 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Diversity Award for Distinguished Service and the 2004 Outstanding Community Involvement Award from Leadership Mahoning Valley.

Anderson's complete vita is available at http://www.yсу.edu/trustees/pdfs/Anderson_CV.PDF.

To view a video of the Board of Trustees vote on Anderson's candidacy, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDb73t1D5EI>.



Ron Cole, Director of University Communications
Office of Marketing and Communications • One University Plaza, Youngstown, Ohio 44555-0001
330.941.3519 • Fax 330.941.1704