

FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

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YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - An in-service personal computer literacy development program for the faculty and staff of Youngstown State University's College of Applied Science and Technology will be under way by summer, thanks to the dean of the college and the Ohio Board of Regents.

Dr. Victor A. Richley, Canfield, dean of the college, was responsible for developing a Faculty/Staff Computer Literacy Development Program proposal which was recently funded for \$95,000 by the Ohio Board of Regents under its Productivity Improvement Challenge Programs. YSU was one of 33 schools which received such funding.

The literacy program will provide materials, instruction and practice in a personal computer lab dedicated to the project. As a result, faculty will be better prepared to incorporate personal computer methods into their courses, graduates will be better educated to meet future employer needs, and faculty/staff efficiency will increase the use of personal computers in their daily work.

Instruction will be provided for 85 members of the faculty and staff of the college. With added University funding, the project may be extended to 400-500 other university faculty and staff.

Instruction will be divided into eight five-week sessions. The faculty and staff will receive instruction two hours a day, twice a week for a total of 20 hours. An open, monitored practice laboratory specifically established for this project will be maintained during working hours in Cushwa Hall.

Dr. Richley, who served as a member of the Productivity Improvement Challenge Program Advisory Committee for the Board of Regents project, said that during part of the time that the computers are not in use specifically for this project, they can be used to support the efforts of the Associate Provost and the University

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Computer Center to augment university-wide faculty development activities related to computers.

Associate professors of Business Education Technology, Dr. Karen Duda, Warren, and Virginia K. Phillips, Edinburg, Pa., will have joint responsibility for the project.

Dr. Duda served as a word/information processing consultant to YSU President Neil Humphrey in researching software and determining the needs for computer literacy and word processing equipment. Her findings served as the basis for the University's Word/Information Processing policy.

She recently developed a number of teaching materials and tested them in an experimental word processing course offered last summer. She also is participating in the Computer Literacy Project for the Youngstown Board of Education, has reviewed four texts in the field and was an invited speaker at a recent national conference on word processing.

Phillips is the former chairperson of the Business Education Technology Department. She has extensive experience in the development of instructional materials and recently designed and taught a course covering computer based educational materials.

She is a member of the National Educator's Advisory Council, an advisory committee to the Board of Directors of International Word Processing Association. She is currently completing a doctorate in Business Administration.

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