



C O M M I T M E N T T O L E A R N I N G

Syracuse and Beyond

*Campaign priorities
connect the classroom
to the workplace.*

Maybe you're one of those people who always knew what you wanted to "be" when you "grew up." But for many students, connecting the academic world to the world after graduation is a challenge.

"At Syracuse," says Deborah Coquillon, "with our options for undergraduate study, our students can combine classroom learning with experiential learning and leave here with real-world skills."

Coquillon is director of Career Exploration Services (CES). Along with the Health Professions Advisory Program (HPAP), CES is part of the Center for Career Exploration, a Commitment to Learning campaign priority in the College of Arts and Sciences. Both Coquillon and assistant professor of biology Marilyn Kerr, who directs the HPAP, aim to expand students' sense of available futures.

Says Kerr of her charges: "We need to encourage goal-oriented entering students — who often know only about the M.D. and the D.D.S.—to look at the variety of options in health care and other careers in case their goals change."

Coquillon says that a balance between academics, work experiences, and extracurricular activities helps students recognize their options and makes them attractive to employers. "We are living in uncertain times," she says. "But our office gets students to recognize the relevance of a Syracuse liberal arts degree and the versatility and skills such a degree entails."

Kerr agrees that the "breadth of students' academic programs," along with

their solid science background, makes for successful applicants to medical schools.

Over in the School of Management, John "Scotty" Andrews, director of the Career Center, knows how focused on their future students can be. Unlike many liberal arts students, management students see themselves on a career track from the first day—though, says Andrews, they may not know exactly where to aim.

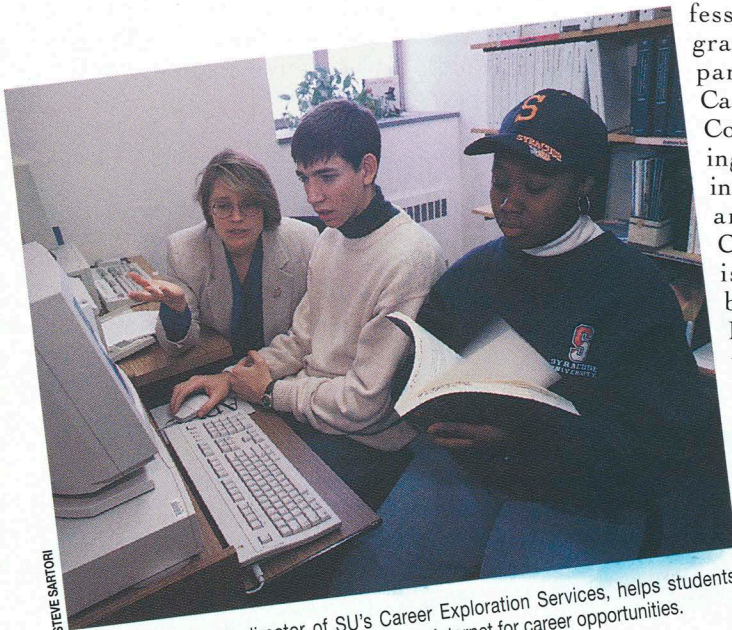
"Students demand a lot," says Andrews. "Not just an education, but being marketed to employers. The question students ask of a career center is, 'What is it doing for me?'"

Andrews says campaign funds will help the center expand its operations. "We need to upgrade our computer system and increase our capacity. Right now, there's usually only one computer available for students searching for job opportunities."

Increased staffing would provide someone to work solely with students, allowing Andrews to make more personal contact with businesses looking for SU graduates.

But he also wants the Career Center to serve alumni. "We want to keep alumni connected to this school, use their knowledge, and help them where we can. We're moving in tune with the times, assisting Syracuse graduates with their job search upon graduation and throughout their careers."

"At the heart of being student-centered," says Arts and Sciences Dean Robert Jensen, "is this effort to prepare students for life after college. It should be viewed as part of the educational process."



STEVE SARTORI

Deb Coquillon (left), director of SU's Career Exploration Services, helps students Steve Hamner and Victoria Stubbs search the Internet for career opportunities.

To receive a free copy of Commitments, Syracuse University's newsletter about the Commitment to Learning campaign, please write or call Cheri Johnson at 820 Comstock Avenue, Room 100, Syracuse, NY 13244-5040. Telephone: (315) 445-2865. Those interested in making a gift should contact Sid Micek, vice president for development and director of the campaign, at the same address and phone number.