

New provost looks to future...

By Tony Perry

The students of Penn State University's Capitol Campus have "the opportunity to participate in the blossoming of an institution," according to Dr. Ruth Leventhal, who will assume the post of Provost/Dean on July 1.

Leventhal, who said she was "absolutely delighted" about her move to Capitol, said recently that she was pleased about "working with the quality of faculty, staff and students" at Capitol, and the opportunity to "move Capitol Campus forward and make it as famous as Joe Paterno."

Capitol Campus' low percentage of minority and women faculty and students is "something that clearly needs immediate attention," said Leventhal.

"We need to put immediate attention into recruitment and retention of minorities and women." She said the campus is in need of "positive role models" for women and minorities to provide students with a balanced perspective.

"My past activities and my future activities speak for my commitment to minority and women's issues," she said.

First attracted to Capitol by "the kinds of educational programs offered" and by what she perceives to be the educational philosophy of the campus, Leventhal anticipates a continuing growth at Capitol.

"Campus beautification and unification" are important to Leventhal's immediate plans for Capitol Campus. She said it is "necessary to build a real campus feeling" here for Capitol to progress.

"I want more students to have an active part in the activities available on campus," she said.

As far as long-range plans are concerned, Leventhal said improvements in the facilities will be necessary to support future needs. She cites Penn State University President Bryce Jordan as being "very supportive" of Capitol's goals for the future.

During a recent press conference she said those goals include "establishing (Capitol Campus) as a cultural center in the Harrisburg/Hershey area."

Leventhal noted that she felt student involvement will be helpful in the forward progress of the campus.

"Commuters have special kinds of needs, as do resident students," she observed. "I would like to meet with students and listen to their ideas and needs



Photo by Jeffrey G. Shatzer

Dr. Leventhal explores art studio while Linda Ross, Dr. John Patterson and Dr. Troy Thomas look on

for the campus and their education."

Noting that there are "many areas that have not been broached," Leventhal said she would like to "work directly with the department heads to make significant efforts into outreach." She said both the Lancaster County and Harrisburg areas could prove to be very supportive of Capitol if the school improved its outreach in those areas.

The notoriety of being the first female provost in the Penn State system, Leventhal believes, will soon die down and allow her to proceed with her plans for the campus.

"At the University of Pennsylvania," she remembers, the fact that she is female was not a significant factor in her achievements.

"Intelligent people are looking for competency and once you have achieved that you become part of the team."

For the moment, Leventhal is "feeling very welcomed," and is "getting letters from all over the country" supporting her. She said she feels the faculty is probably "anxious to get started" now that a new provost has been selected and is herself eager to begin.

"What I like doing best," she said, "is helping people do what they do best."



Photo by Jeffrey G. Shatzer

Dr. Leventhal meets with several segments of the campus community in preparation for her new position.