

## EDUCATION

# Winters to guide regional ed at New Paltz

BY DYLAN SKRILOFF

At SUNY New Paltz, longtime assistant dean of Continuing and Professional Education and director of Extension and Distance Learning Helise Winters has been named dean of the new Regional Education department. The new department replaces and absorbs the functions of the CPE and will be part of SUNY New Paltz's brand new Center for Research, Regional Education and Outreach (CRREO).

Winters said working with the new center would give the department the chance to learn more about the Hudson Valley's education needs and how to fulfill them. "What interested me was the idea of doing research and appealing to what interests people in the valley. Because we are part of the center, we will be part of new initiatives," she said.

In the past decade Winters said SUNY New Paltz's CPE office (now Regional Education) had concentrated less on non-credit professional development and personal enrichment courses, leaving those to the growing community colleges in the area, and instead focused on extending its

Baccalaureate program throughout the region. The Extension and Distance Learning program reaches extension sites in Dutchess, Orange, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties and also does two collaborative doctoral programs with SUNY Albany via video-conferencing technology.

The department still has an Institute for Professional Development, as well as the Language Immersion Institute, the New Paltz-Sullivan Partnership Program and the Classroom Technology Institute. Regional Education is also in charge of running online courses and summer courses. Winters also serves on the Academic Affairs Committee, the Budget, Goals and Plans Committee and the Academic Senate at the college. "Helise is a wise, practical leader who knows how to develop programs that expand people's life opportunities," College President Steven Poskanzer



Helise Winters, SUNY New Paltz's dean of Regional Education.

said in a recent news release. "She is going to be a wonderful dean of regional education."

Recognizing the Hudson Valley

Business Journal's spotlight on women in business, Winters reflected on the increasing role she's seen women play in the business world in recent years. "They are very entrepreneurial. More women are going to college than men now...For years SUNY New Paltz had a woman president. Many women are involved in higher education," she said.

The CRREO will be directed by Gerald Benjamin, who has been dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences since the fall of 1996. He is stepping down from that position in May of 2008 to concentrate on the new department. According to Benjamin the mission of the new center will include conducting and publicizing research on regional topics; encouraging faculty to build regionally-based service activity into their scholarship and teaching; creation/direction of one or more institutes focused on specific topics of regional interest; leading the college's academic outreach to local governments, non-profits and for-profit organizations; and creating programs to train newly-elected regional offices.