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Press release : 2003 : 05 : 16 : Hands-On, Student-Centered Learning is Credo of USF St. Petersburg's Nancy Jones

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Having taught 26 different computer science and information systems courses in 24 years of teaching, Nancy Jones has discovered the method that works best for her – and her students. "I believe in student-centered education," said Jones. "I find that students learn more effectively when they solve problems themselves rather than when they simply listen to teacher."

Jones will bring her hands-on methods to her new USF St. Petersburg classroom in the fall when she joins the faculty as an instructor of Information Systems and Decision Sciences. "When a student is involved intellectually in the processing and applying of any information," said Jones, "that student takes ownership of it, fits that information into what is already known, notices the errors as the errors are made, is unlikely to repeat mistakes, grows in confidence, conceptualization and analysis, and progresses easily into being able to create and evaluate. Education that involves creation is more intense and longer lasting than learning that is done only via 'lecture and observe' methodologies," she said.

"Nancy Jones is a dynamic and energetic instructor who knows how to engage a classroom," said Gary Olson, interim associate vice president for Academic Affairs. "Her teaching experience is extensive and her subject knowledge is cutting-edge. She will make a wonderful addition to USF St. Petersburg's College of Business."

Jones comes to USF St. Petersburg after teaching at State University of New York (SUNY) at Geneseo where she was once a student. After earning her bachelor's degree and her first master's in Secondary Education Mathematics from SUNY, she attended Rochester Institute of Technology and received a second master's in Computer Science. She has taken many post-master's courses and continuously attends training to keep on the cutting-edge of today's technology. "Keeping up with the newest technology is fun for me," said Jones. "I thrive on learning anything new."

A long-time resident of New York, Jones is looking forward to making St. Petersburg her new home. "I am very excited about leaving the snow and ice behind me and teaching and living on the Suncoast. I'm looking forward to living where my toes and nose will always be warm," she jokes.

"USF St. Petersburg is a beautiful campus. I cannot believe I will soon be able to look out my office window and see sail boats sailing past. Vacation postcard views, friendly people, goals for being the best at what you do; I found nothing at USF St. Petersburg's Information Systems Department that I did not like. I love teaching and can't wait to start," said Jones.

- USFSP -

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