

Dr. Larry Anderson's Biography

Dr. Larry S. Anderson began his professional career in education as a junior high school industrial arts teacher in his hometown of Starkville, Mississippi. Actually, by the time he took his first teaching job in 1973, he had gained quite a bit of experience teaching young people by working with youth in church activities, and especially when he drove a school bus for many years. He learned how to employ the key characteristic of *patience* as he helped others to develop their skills and interests.

Dr. Anderson taught industrial arts for eight years, and then was named Principal of Armstrong Middle School in Starkville, MS, where he served for three years. He was recruited to join the Technology and Education faculty at Mississippi State University. For 17 years, Dr. Anderson taught and designed courses ranging from basic electronics to computer literacy to the full spectrum of courses for the graduate Instructional Technology degree program. He retired from university teaching in December 2000 and now devotes 100 percent of his time to public speaking, writing, and consulting.

Dr. Anderson created the National Center for Technology Planning in 1992. He had conducted research that revealed the significant importance of a school's having a well thought out technology plan. He has worked with schools, government agencies, military, corporate offices, and public service on technology planning. In the mid to late 1990's, Dr. Anderson devised the notion of educational/instructional technology audit to assist with a school's accountability. The result of this was the publication of his 270-page book, ***Technology Audit Survivor's Guide***. He continues to help school leaders understand how this audit can actually **help** their schools, how they should not fear the audit, and how they can look forward to the audit process.

"Dr. A," as he is affectionately known by many of his former students and colleagues, has been called the "Johnny Appleseed of Technology," because he has been responsible for collecting and giving away to schools across the world innumerable solutions to their technology dilemmas. He is a man who experienced many "firsts":

- created the first interactive videodisc in Mississippi (in collaboration with Dr. Dan Brook and Mr. Keith Tartt);
- co-founded the Mississippi Educational Computing Association (MECA), the first and only professional organization in Mississippi dedicated specifically to help teachers and administrators in public, private, parochial, and higher education institutions to learn how to make practical and powerful uses of the technologies that became available;
- first president of MECA;
- first doctoral student at the University of Alabama to be named *Outstanding Graduate Student* two years in a row;
- first Chairman of the Mississippi Council for Education Technology, an advisory group formed by the MS Legislature in 1994; and
- created and managed the first webcast of a cultural arts concert from Mississippi (jazz concert of the Mark Applebaum Trio) broadcast live to six continents via the World Wide Web.

Dr. Anderson is respected by thousands and held in high esteem; however, the accolade for which he is most proud is being known as a good husband and good father.