Derrick Anderson named CEO of ASU EdPlus

Anderson will also serve as university dean for educational initiatives

By Meenah Rincon, ASU News
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Arizona State University has named Derrick Anderson university dean for educational initiatives and CEO of ASU EdPlus, building on the work of Phil Regier, who will become senior advisor on educational technology after guiding the unit's growth for over a decade.

ASU EdPlus, the innovation unit that serves as steward for ASU Online, enters its next chapter with a leader who has helped shape its direction.

Effective Nov. 2, Anderson will focus on expanding access and strengthening partnerships, while Regier will advise on how educational technology can serve learners.

"Phil Regier showed what progress is possible when a university fully commits to serving learners where they are," ASU President Michael M. Crow said. "He evolved ASU EdPlus as a national model for digital learning, all while enhancing student success and innovation. As a skilled leader in design thinking, Derrick Anderson will build on that strong foundation to further advance the ASU Charter, and I am excited to see ASU EdPlus continue to thrive."

Regier, who earned a doctorate in accountancy from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, joined Arizona State University in 1987 as an assistant professor of accountancy and eventually became the executive dean of the W. P. Carey School of Business in 2004.

In 2009, he was appointed as dean of educational initiatives and CEO of ASU EdPlus. Under Regier's leadership, online enrollment grew from 400 to more than 119,000 students, and the number of online programs grew from six to more than 400. His tenure also included the Starbucks College Achievement Plan, the Global Freshman Academy and partnerships with Uber, Air University, the Mastercard Foundation and the Al Ghurair Foundation, along with co-convening the ASU+GSV Summit.

"Bringing education to more learners matters. What also matters is the people behind it," Regier said. "Learners found a path they didn't think was open to them, and the people at ASU EdPlus made that happen. We set out to prove that quality and access can grow together, and Derrick

Anderson understands that mission and how much more we can accomplish. I’m excited to keep working on that promise from a new seat.”

Anderson, an ASU alumnus, earned a PhD in public policy and management from the University of Georgia.

He currently teaches ASU courses and is an affiliate of ASU’s Center for Organization Research and Design, the University Design Institute and the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory, and a professor in the School of Public Affairs at the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions.

In October, the National Academy of Public Administration elected him as one of 64 highly accomplished professionals to join the 2026 Class of Academy Fellows.

Anderson has worked with Crow to develop ASU’s public enterprise model, and his research on the governance of emerging technologies and university design has been published in leading journals and supported by the National Science Foundation and the Gates Foundation, among others.

Prior roles include senior vice president of education futures at the American Council on Education, where he led national initiatives with hundreds of universities and, most recently, vice president of enterprise design and policy at the University of Utah. A public institution and policy design scholar, Anderson brings deep knowledge of the university and higher education to his new role at ASU.

“Phil Regier and this team built something that has changed lives, and our work now is to keep opening that door to many more people,” Anderson said. “Technology, including AI, gives us the chance to make learning more personal, more flexible and more responsive to what each learner needs. That means pairing the best of that technology with the partnerships and the people who create opportunities for more learners around the world."

The mission and the partnerships that carry it will stay the same. Anderson will focus on expanding access, deepening partnerships and putting technology to work for learners.

“A learner anywhere should be able to find a place here at ASU,” Anderson said.

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Main image



Derrick Anderson has been named university dean for educational initiatives and CEO of ASU EdPlus. ASU photo