

# College tries to personalize remedial program

By MICHAEL MATUSZEWSKI

TO SOLVE the problems, Special Studies staffers try to walk their students through introductory college courses, teaching them necessary skills, such as reading and writing, while building confidence.

The techniques are not new. "Let's face it," Mrs. Keidan said, "We're not really trying to re-invent the wheel. We're just trying to put them (techniques) together in a different way to see if they make some sense."

"We're doing some things differently. We're pacing some things differently. For some of our students we may go a lot slower." Special Studies students may be given more time to complete course work. They may also be given special considerations in test taking. But, Mrs. Keidan said, the content of Special Studies courses is no different from other introductory courses.

"We've had students who just can't take a test in the same room with other students. One woman just looks at a test paper and freezes. Another can't take a written test but does excellent work when the test is read to him," she said.

SOME STUDENTS and faculty members try to stereotype participating students, Mrs. Keidan said.

"I had one woman come to me and say she was told she was in a class for dummies. The courses are not for dummies. Some of our students are brilliant. Some just were never drilled in the basics. Some have specific learning disabilities.

"Some are coming back to school after being away for a long time — they're the best candidates for Special Studies," Mrs. Keidan calls them "high-risk" students.

Personalized instruction has a precedent at OCC. During OCC's early years, it rejected traditional lecture

courses in favor of self-paced education. Self-paced courses relied more on taped materials than live instructors. That was a disappointment, Mrs. Keidan said.

"Students need to know what is expected of them."

DESPITE ITS image, Special Studies has its supporters.

"This might not compare to MSU," said one Special Studies student. "Many of us wouldn't have gotten into MSU right out of high school anyhow. At least now we've got a chance."

Besides the 450 persons enrolled, many other students need what Special Studies has to offer, Mrs. Keidan said.

Testing is not used when students enroll. Placement in Special Studies depends on high school academic

records, which students sometimes provide, and on faculty and counselor referrals. Even then, participation is voluntary.

THE PROGRAM is ending the first year of its two-year trial run, and evaluation will be done.

That will not be easy, Mrs. Keidan said. The only true measure of success will come after the students leave Spe-

cial Studies classes. She doesn't expect 100 percent success.

"We just have to wait and see," she says. "For some people, coming to college is like going off a high dive for the first time. Sometimes they need to be pushed."

"After the first time, it's fun. Want to be that push?"

"If we can make some difference, it's worth it."

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## Oakland GOP will hear Rep. Anderson

U.S. Rep. John B. Anderson, R-Ill., will be the featured speaker at the 90th annual Lincoln Banquet on Friday evening in the Raleigh House, Telegraph at 10 Mile Road in Southfield.

Tickets are \$12.50 and can be purchased from Oakland County Republican Headquarters by calling 646-8414.

It will mark Anderson's second speaking appearance in metropolitan Detroit in two weeks. Anderson, who is exploring a run for the GOP's 1980 presidential nomination, appeared

along with former Texas Gov. John Connally at a Dearborn fundraiser for former U.S. Robert Griffin.

The 10-year House veteran has long been a spokesman for the Republican Party's liberal wing. Anderson, who is third in line in the Republican House leadership, has been a supporter of open housing, strip-mine controls and limited public financing of abortions. He voted against the B-1 bomber, a \$2 billion nuclear-powered aircraft carrier and the American Agricultural Movement's farm supports proposal.

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