During more than two decades at the UA, she has used her research and teaching success to accelerate a robust outreach agenda in which she is working to help diversify the high-demand science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

For a 15-year period that began in 1993, Seraphin secured continuous grant funding from the National Science Foundation to support a program for undergraduates and teachers. All told, nearly 140 people — 45 percent who were women and minorities — were supported, resulting in dozens of scientific articles and technical papers being published, in addition to national and international conference presentations.

Seraphin, who has regularly involved students in active research, also has established or co-facilitated programs for hundreds of students, teachers, mentors, advisors and others in Arizona and nationally. In particular, she has supported informative and educational activities, research opportunities and professional development programs in the STEM fields.

Seraphin is also a Faculty Fellow, a nationally recognized program established at the UA involving a group of highly regarded faculty who engage students in meaningful interactions in non-academic settings.

Seraphin understands that students must feel they are essential and valued members of a campus community in order to be successful. As a Faculty Fellow, she has become known for preparing Thai lunches of chicken curry, pad Thai and other dishes for students at the UA’s Arbol de la Vida residence hall, a practice that has garnered attention beyond the UA.

For her contributions, Seraphin has received local and international awards and invitations. In Tucson, she earned the highly coveted Bell’s Bells award, granted to those who exhibit caring and kindness.

Seraphin also won a UA Science & Engineering Excellence award in 2009, and in 2007 the College of Engineering named her a Da Vinci Fellow. She also received the Norbert L. Kreitl MSE Department Award for Outstanding Teaching in 1997, and she has received numerous other awards for her teaching and outreach.

The three-pronged mission of higher education — focus on teaching, research and outreach — historically has been segmented. But Supapan Seraphin takes an integrated approach, aligning each of those activities in a way that suggests a nod toward the future of contemporary higher education.

Seraphin, a UA professor of materials science and engineering, is both a productive scholar and an esteemed educator who is keenly invested in advocating for improved engagement and support of students, from the K-12 level through higher education.

A highly regarded expert in electron microscopy and carbon nanoclusters, Seraphin joined the UA faculty in 1990.

Seraphin has cultivated an impressive research and scholarship program, aiding in the development of critical and novel approaches to digital analysis. She also directs the electron microscopy facility in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering, and has published about 80 articles in her field.