Accounting enrollments up

If there’s one thing the Enron and Andersen accounting scandals did, they “radically raised the profile of accountants, the importance we have in the economy,” said Dana Forgione, director of Florida International University’s school of accounting.

Forgione said he thinks that has caused a rise in enrollments nationwide.

One new twist at FIU is a graduate course in fraud examination, he said.

The school has partnered with the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, which has provided some of the teaching materials.

“We have eminently qualified faculty teaching those courses,” said Forgione, who has served on the international board of regents of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.

“We are also launching a new diploma in fraud examination,” he said. “And what we are hoping to do is to help raise the level of understanding and expertise across the board for accountants so that when they get into the firms they know what fraud smells like, and they have a better sense of what to look for and what the issues are so when they come across a red flag, they know where to pull it and how far to pull the string and make sure they get things unraveled.”

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Kevin Gale