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A Fellow of the American Anthropological Association, Professor Sudarkasa has served on the Executive Board of that organization as well as on the Executive Board of the African Heritage Studies Association. Her other former national professional activities include membership on the Social Science Research Council's Committee on Afro-American Societies and Culture and the Chairmanship of the Committee on Minority Participation of the American Anthropological Association. She is currently a member of the Editorial Board of the Journal African Urban Studies.

At The University of Michigan, in addition to numerous University-wide ad hoc committee assignments, Professor Sudarkasa has served on the Faculty Senate Assembly, the University's Academic Affairs Committee, the Graduate School's Divisional Board of Social Sciences and Education, the Graduate Divisional Board Nominating Committee, the Graduate Non-Traditional Fellowships Review Committee, the College of Literature, Science and the Arts' Curriculum Committee, the University's International Women's Year Committee, and the University's Women's Commission. Currently, she is a member of the ISA Student Grievance Appeals Board.

Professor Sudarkasa has been honored for her professional and civic activities by various organizations and by her native city of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, which awarded her a Key to the City and proclaimed a Day in her honor in March, 1976.

In May, 1981, the Board of Foreign Scholarships of the U.S. International Communication Agency awarded Professor Sudarkasa a Fulbright Research Grant to study the role of West African women in overseas international trade. The study will be undertaken between April 1982 and January 1983 from a base at the National University of the Republic of Benin in French-speaking West Africa. It will involve research in Nigeria and Ghana as well as in the Republic of Benin.