

An Abbreviated History of College Academic Support Programs (CASP)

Prepared by Carol W. Dochen, Ph.D. (CASP Historian; TADE Past President, 1982-1984; Director, Student Learning Assistance Center – SLAC, Texas State University)

In 1982, the inaugural CASP conference was held at the former Villa Capri, a motor hotel tucked in between The University of Texas at Austin campus and Interstate I-35. This initial conference was the result of more than twelve years of communication between Coordinating Board staff, faculty, administrators, and legislators in response to the growing numbers of underprepared students attending junior colleges and universities across Texas.

Important events leading up to the formation of the first CASP conference include a national focus on access and the resulting open door admissions movement in junior and community colleges (and some universities) that gained popularity in the 1960's, conferences for faculty and administrators sponsored by the Compensatory Education Project in the Junior College Division at the Texas College and University System Coordinating Board in the early 1970's, and an expansion of the role and scope of both junior colleges to include state-funded compensatory education courses (1973) and of senior colleges to offer a maximum of three hours of state-funded remedial English/reading/writing (1979).

Changes in statewide policies and course funding proved to be the spark that ignited and launched the developmental education professionalism movement in Texas. In 1982, the Coordinating Board sponsored their *Improving Developmental/Remedial Education* workshop in Austin, and the National Association for Remedial/Developmental Studies in Post Secondary Education held *The First Texas State NARDSPE Chapter Meeting and Professional Development Workshop* in Houston. Both conferences provided the much needed opportunities for college and university developmental education faculty members, learning center staff, and administrators to join the pioneers from the 1970's in conversation and planning for a statewide conference. Sponsored by RASSL Learning Services at The University of Texas at Austin and Western College Reading Association Texas Chapter, CASP was born four months later, on October 21-22, 1982.

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