



2013-2014 Conference Summary

Name: Melanie Mowrer

Date: June 16-19, 2014 : Town and Country Convention Center San Diego, Ca.

Conference Title: CASAS National Summer Institute 2014

Conference Presenter: CASAS and adult education experts from around the nation

Conference Hyperlink: www.CASAS.org

Conference Description

CASAS (Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System) is the most widely used system for assessing adult basic skills within a functional context and is the only adult assessment system of its kind to be approved and validated by the United States Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Labor in the area of adult literacy. Each summer, CASAS holds an institute so that numerous presenters, panelists, and speakers can come together to share their expertise and knowledge about educating adult learners.

Summary- One full page

- Last year, ESL Professor Susan Gaer (non-credit) and ESL Professor Melanie Mowrer (credit) won the **Best Practices** award from CASAS for their collaborative project *Transitioning Students to College*. On June 19th, the two were invited back to provide an update of their successful transition model. They spoke for an hour and a half about the history, successes, and challenges they endured over the last five years. Melanie provided a handout called Ten Tips in Transitioning Students to College and Susan presented a PowerPoint and movie clip highlighting student engagement and active participation between the two classes. The two spoke about the importance of bringing both sides of the house together (credit and non-credit ESL) and involving administration as well as a multidisciplinary group of faculty and staff to support them. The presentation was colorful and meaningful as the two displayed classroom projects their students produced collaboratively. Some of these projects included graphic organizers, publications of students' interviews and immigration narratives and American Dream Globes. Susan and Melanie will work with new instructors next semester and have plans to write a Transitions to College course.

At the end of the presentation, there were lots of questions and requests for materials. Several attendees said the presentation sparked a need for conversation about

transition on their own campuses.

- While in San Diego, Susan Gaer, Melanie Mowrer (ESL) John Tashima, (SLO Coordinator) Christine Gascon (AB 86 Coordinator) and Colleen Lehman (Citizenship instructor) had the opportunity to visit San Diego School of Continuing Education. The group observed a Transition to College class and met with Gretchen Bitterlin, Dean of Instruction. The group came away with a lot of materials and resources that will be useful in creating a transition course as well as some contextualized directed learning activities (DLA's).
- A session I thoroughly enjoyed was given by Jayme Adelson Goldstein, author of The Oxford Picture Dictionary. Her presentation was called Reasoning and Rigor in the Beginning ESL Class. This session centered on how to implement College and Career Readiness Standards in ESL. (CCRS). She also spoke about the rationale for integrating academic and workplace skills into adult ESL lessons. Jayme provided a packet of lessons as well as links to explore College and Career Readiness Standards.