

# **History of TXCAPS**

## **Texas Career Advising and Placement Services For Texas Community Colleges**

Texas Career Advising and Placement Services for Texas Community Colleges (TXCAPS) began its life in 1977 as the Junior-Community College Placement Personnel Association of Texas. The Association used the letters PPAT as its acronym. The earliest bylaws in the archives show a revision date of February 18, 1977. Documents from that time list twenty-nine charter members from all regions of Texas. The membership list of 1978-1979 contains seventy-eight members from forty-two community and technical colleges. Eleven employers were included in the membership list at that time. (See Membership List.)

PPAT was designated as an interest section within the Junior College Student Personnel Association of Texas (JCSPAT), now known as the Junior/Community College Student Personnel Association of Texas (J/CCSPAT). In 1978 the Association had a constitution which indicated it was an interest section of the Texas Personnel and Guidance Association, now called the Texas Counseling Association (TCA). The bylaws stated that PPAT would remain an interest section until its Board of Directors deemed it of interest to establish other status. It is unclear as to when the Association discontinued its interest section status to become a stand-alone organization.

PPAT had two levels of membership—Regular and Associate. Regular Members were required to have a minimum of a bachelor's degree and to be a regular faculty or administrator of a Texas junior/community college with a placement function. Associate Members were not required to have a bachelor's degree and were support personnel in Placement Offices or were other interested college personnel. The 1978 revision of the by-laws deleted the membership levels and the requirements for bachelor's degrees. It also deleted the faculty or administrator requirement.

The original purpose of the Association, as stated in the By-Laws of April 4, 1977, was “to serve as an organization in which and through which the membership may promote, realize and express in definite form the ideas and goals of Junior-Community College Placement.”

In 1981 and 1983, the Association once again revised its by-laws and the name was changed to the Placement Association of Texas, PAT. The purpose of the Association remained the same. A logo was adopted showing the state of Texas in blue with the words “PAT” centered in the middle and eight arrows emanating from the center into the different regions of Texas.

The earliest mention in the archives of an annual conference was “Placement-Recruitment Techniques-Strategies Part II”, held at the Quality Inn-South in Austin, Texas in October of 1981. The Association has held annual conferences continuously in different cities around the state since that date. The first newsletter, *The Placement*

*Association of Texas Update*, was published in February 1985. The newsletter began appearing in an electronic format in the 2000's.

As times have changed, the Association has always endeavored to be knowledgeable about the latest economic conditions, technological advances, career development and employment issues. In order to reflect the changing times and the needs of its members, the Association has revised its bylaws at least twelve times since 1977. The bylaws and organization name may indeed be revised and updated once again with amendments proposed by the Board of Directors to the membership at the 2009 conference and continuing with amendments proposed on January 12, 2010.

Currently, TXCAPS is the only professional association in the state of Texas devoted exclusively to the career and employment issues of two-year colleges and their students. Serving students has always been at the forefront of the Association's mission and will continue to be so into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. As times and needs have changed, the Association's goals have remained the same, to be an organization which provides opportunities for community and technical college career professionals and the business community to exchange ideas, promote professional growth, and share best practices.

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