

A Letter from the President

A large part of this job is going to meetings— board meetings, foundation meetings, conference-call meetings, meetings with my vice-president to explain why I am going to all these meetings—and my very favorite—chapter meetings. One area of confusion that still exists everywhere to varying degrees is a very basic understanding of what developmental education really is.

Helping underprepared students prepare; the prepared students advance; and the advanced students excel.

This is NADE's motto, but very few people with whom I speak really get beyond the first part—the part about the underprepared. Here is an example. A reporter called to ask me about our developmental programs, and after I described our student leader program, she asked to speak to a student leader. The interview went great according to the student—she was so thrilled that she had been interviewed. The reporter agreed—the only problem was that the student was working with an English 102—Research class, not a “remedial” class which was what the reporter was interested in.

All Students Need Developmental Education

My bad. See, when I think about developmental education, I think about the services we provide all students who are developing skills and may need support in their learning. In fact, I am not sure what a remedial student is. It has been a long time since we have used that term at my college, and the developmental program and the many services we offer are not restricted to a single group of students based on their placement scores.

Yes, we began our program with learning communities, intrusive advising, dedicated support services, and an emphasis on mandatory testing, placement, and orientation. But we soon realized that students weren't just “fixed” after a semester or two, and that developmental education meant development throughout the time students were with us. As David Arendale says, “Either we are all developmental, or none of us are developmental.” And that implies all the time.

Developmental ≠ Remedial

So, it bears repeating from our own website that developmental education is a comprehensive process that focuses on the intellectual, social, and emotional growth and development of all students. Developmental education includes, but is not limited to, tutoring, personal/career counseling, academic advisement and coursework. And for quick reference, here is a chart that quickly explains the differences:

Remedial	Developmental
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited to under prepared 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addresses all students
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works on a deficit model 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works on a holistic model
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focuses on academic skills only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focuses on skills, attitudes, environment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “If you didn’t get it the first time, we will repeat it until you do.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Let’s set up an environment where everyone can learn.”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on “It was easy for me, so why isn’t easy for you? You must be lazy, dumb, poor, etc.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on adult learning theory and cognitive psychology

FOLDS OF HONOR UPDATE

A well-known boost to one’s attitude and well-being is giving to others. We have a number of chapters who must be feeling great right now because they have donated to NADE’s service project FOLDS of HONOR, a 501(c) 3 foundation which raises money to educate the families of disabled vets and their families along with Gold Star families:

ALADE - \$1000
 CoAde- \$500
 DEAM - \$200
 GADE - \$200
 KADE - \$200
 NCADE - \$350
 PADE - \$100
 SWADE - \$200
 TADE - \$200

One of our keynote speakers, Ed Pulido, has asked, in lieu of a speaking fee, that NADE provide a scholarship through his organization, Folds of Honor, to a spouse or a child of a fallen or disabled service member. We will be presenting him a check at the end of his talk on Thursday, March 2.

Please reach into your hearts (and your bank accounts) and make a generous donation. Donations should be sent to

Annette Cook, NADE Vice-President
 10966 Sleepy Valley Rd
 Northport, AL 35475

Thank you very much, and I look forward to thanking you in person in Oklahoma City!