

The Birth of the CASI Scholarship Program

In the spring of 1998, Jim Ezell and I were traveling through West Texas in my motorhome, conducting business for my company, Hill Country Software and Support. On this particular afternoon we were traveling in the Abilene area, heading towards Alpine, Texas. We got to talking about the possible creation of a scholarship program for CASI, and being that we were way ahead of schedule, we decided that we should meet with Tom and Dorothy Williams, concerning such a program that could benefit the Terlingua High School graduates, as well as other students from all around the United States, since CASI is a national organization. Somewhere between Pecos and Ft Stockton we placed a call to the Williams, and we agreed to meet them at the Longdraw Pizza, in Terlingua, Texas, at 4:00. At that time, I switched the motorhome into ultra-high gear, and the “beast”, as Jim Ezell later called it, headed for the Longdraw, which was about a 150-mile trip. Due to whatever, we actually arrived at the Longdraw about thirty or so minutes before 4:00. I think the short period of time it took us to make the trip, caused Jim to start referring to my motorhome as the “beast”.

Needless to say, the meeting was quite productive, and the CASI Scholarship Program was born. This meeting was followed by meetings with Kathy Killingsworth, who was the school superintendent, and the CASI Board of Directors. A committee was then formed, headed by Hut Brown, with the goal of organizing and subsequently supervising the project. To date, the program has turned out to be quite a success, and has aided a lot of deserving students.

Jim Stateczny