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Taiwanese High School Students from Austin's Sister City Study English at TIEP

Twenty-three high school students and two teachers from four high schools in the Taichung area of Taiwan participated in a specially-designed intensive English language and American culture program at the Texas Intensive English Program from July 6 through July 27.

The program was conducted under the auspices of the Austin-Taichung Sister Cities Committee, which arranged several special activities for the participants including a welcoming reception and



farewell dinner along with a visit to Austin City Hall for a meeting with Mayor Will Wynn. In addition, participants enjoyed weekend homestays with Austin families and went on field trips to Houston (including NASA) and San Antonio.

Many students indicated that they would like to return to Austin and TIEP again. Typical was Ming-Shan Wu, who noted, "The program was perfect. I'm looking forward to studying here and hope I can be back soon!"

For more information on TIEP, visit <http://www.tiec.org/tiep> or e-mail tiep@tiec.org.

Ninth Mishima Summer Program Under Way

Thirty-six Japanese high school students from Nihon University's Mishima Senior High School, accompanied by three of their teachers and one tour escort, are participating in the ninth specially-designed intensive English language and American culture program for Mishima students at TIEP from July 21 through August 11.

During their three weeks in Austin, students are attending morning classes at TIEP and participating in numerous afternoon and evening cultural activities outside the classroom. These include meetings with American students who are studying Japanese and exploring different areas of Austin to complete various task-based assignments. The students also enjoyed a weekend homestay with a local family and went on a field trip to San Antonio.

Mr. Kaneo Kawaguchi, the senior leader of the group, stated that the "36 students are satisfied with the kind staff. A picnic with host families, a trip to San Antonio, and of course lessons are very enjoyable to them. Every day, in the evening, we discuss with each other and they say that the entire staff is generous and that they want to come back, if possible."



Argentine ESL Teachers Participate in Fourth American Studies Institute

The fourth American Studies Institute for Teachers of English from Latin America was held at TIEP from July 15 to July 26. Eight Argentine teachers of English, all of whom were from areas outside of Buenos Aires, participated in an intensive program at TIEP concentrating on American culture and foreign language teaching methodology. Funding for this program was provided by the United States Department of State.

The teachers attended morning classes at TIEP and participated in numerous cultural activities in the afternoons and evenings, including visits to the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, the Blanton Museum of Art, and the Benson Latin American collection at The University of Texas at Austin; a Toastmasters' meeting (the first such experience for all of the participants); and a day-trip to San Antonio. They also visited Austin's Travis High School, where they observed classes and discussed curriculum matters with school representatives.



Culminating the Argentines' experience was the celebration of "Thanksgiving in July," which was arranged by a TIEP faculty member. Because an American-style Thanksgiving Day is not celebrated in Argentina, the participants wanted to experience this unique holiday tradition with turkey and all the trimmings while in Austin.

TIEC Assists Egyptian University in Design of New English Language Center

TIEC is providing assistance in the establishment of a new English Language Center (ELC) at Misr University for Science and Technology (MUST) in 6th of October City, Egypt. Services include designing the curricula, specifying instructional materials and pedagogical methods, and establishing performance standards and assessment procedures. TIEP faculty members Dr. John Schmidt



and Ms. Meagan Hopkins are developing the ELC program components under the direction of Dr. Terry Simon, Director of TIEP.

Dr. Schmidt will conduct a three-day orientation and training program at MUST in September 2007 to introduce the ELC program design to administrators and instructors. The on-site training will include participants working on group tasks to review topics, share instructional techniques and activities, and develop assessment tools.