



TIEC GAZETTE

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Newsletter of the Texas International Education Consortium

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More About TIEC...

Overview

A unique association of 32 public universities in Texas

Programs and Services

Offering assistance to public and private organizations worldwide

Study in Texas

Featuring a full range of programs for students and professionals

Opportunities at TIEC

Career opportunities for university professionals

Mexican Students Appreciate Expanded Learning Opportunities of TIEP Home Stay Program



The Texas Intensive English Program (TIEP) welcomed a group of scholarship students from the University of Monterrey (UEM), Nuevo León, México, for the Spring 2008 session, renewing UDEM ties with TIEC that extended back to the early 1990s. The Mexican students joined other scholarship recipients from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Libya, who were attending TIEP's intensive programs of English language training for business and career purposes, academic purposes, and general communication purposes.

The UDEM group had graduated from the Leaders Accessing College Education Program at their university, sponsored in part by the GE Foundation, and had selected TIEP after researching various other language learning options. During their stay in Austin, they chose to live with local host families in order to enhance their opportunities to practice English outside the classroom. Violeta Ortega noted, "studying basic English in school does not teach you the cultural differences learned when living with a host family."

Before returning home, students commented on the professionalism they found at TIEP. Azrael Reyna expressed the group consensus that the "teachers and staff have been very helpful, very supportive, even outside the classroom." More information on TIEP programs and housing options can be found at <http://www.tiec.org/tiep>.

TIEC-THECB Workshop on Study Abroad Attracts Statewide Interest

TIEC joined forces with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to co-host a workshop for public universities and community colleges on May 5, 2008, entitled "Study Abroad: Emerging Issues and Best Practices."

Attendance exceeded expectations, with 89 participants representing 36 public universities and community colleges in Texas. Panels featured presentations by participants from several TIEC-affiliated universities, including James Andrews, Texas State University—San Marcos, who organized a session on "Short Term Faculty Led Programs," along with Mary Beth Butler, University of North Texas, and Sandra Crosier, Texas Tech University, who spoke on "Developing Effective Program Policies and Infrastructures." TIEP's Karen Easterday organized a session on "The State of Study Abroad."



Other expert panelists discussed various liability and risk management issues associated with study abroad programs, as well as the growing costs of program operations and the need to increase the participation of

Contact TIEC

Web: www.tiec.org
E-mail: info@tiec.org

1103 West 24th Street
Austin, TX 78705 USA

Tel. (512) 477-9283
Fax (512) 322-9079

students from diverse backgrounds in such programs.

Many participants expressed an interest in continuing efforts to identify and explore solutions to the issues raised during the workshop. Vic Padelford, University of Houston—Victoria, looked forward to TIEC “bringing connectivity to the table” in support of universities’ international programs.

The complete workshop agenda and a link to the program webcast are available at http://www.tiec.org/pdf/sa_wkshop050508.pdf.

TIEP International Fair Inspires Cultural Appreciation



Students in TIEP’s Communication and Culture program organized an International Culture Fair in mid-May as an opportunity to demonstrate their developing communication skills. After weeks of preparation, students presented vivid interactive displays on their countries and cultures.

Highlights of the Fair included trying on clothing from Thailand, eating Brazilian candy, playing games from

Korea, and sampling foods from various countries. The presentations ended with a live performance of traditional Korean songs.

TIEP student Cristiane Vicente from Brazil commented, “I had no idea about how beautiful (Turkey) is.” Yuko Suzuki found that “some students were surprised by (Japanese) hot springs because there is no custom in their country to take a bath in public. I felt the difference of culture.”

This student-led event proved to be a popular new activity in TIEP’s English for Communication Skills program, which emphasizes speaking and listening in social and professional settings. For more information on the program, visit <http://www.tiec.org/tiep/communication.php>.

Staff News

Laura Coco (*center, in photo below*) has been named the new Student Services Administrator, having previously served as a TIEP Office Assistant. A recent graduate of The University of Texas at Austin, Laura has also lived in Chile, where she taught English. Laura will coordinate the TIEC Sponsored Student program as well as work with current and prospective TIEP students.

Sophia Kwong (*l.*) has been advising and counseling TIEC University Express and sponsored students since August of 2007. A graduate of The University of Texas at Austin, she has studied in Spain and Costa Rica, where she obtained a CELTA certificate for teaching English.



Laura Sullivan (*r.*) recently joined TIEC’s Finance and Operations department. With more than six years of experience in the accounting field, Laura assists with textbook distribution, student accounts, and general operations.