



TIEC GAZETTE

November 2008

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*

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Service to Universities

TIEC Operating Council Explores Expanding Global Presence of Texas Universities

Representatives from 23 of TIEC's 32 affiliated universities—members of the TIEC Operating Council—met in Austin on October 30 to discuss ways TIEC can enhance its services to meet the needs of its member universities and international education.

Dr. Ronald Aqua, President and CEO of TIEC, presented findings of his recent visits to member campuses and led a discussion of how, in an era of unprecedented change in higher education, TIEC can help universities foster international student mobility, form institutional partnerships, and leverage faculty and administrative expertise.

In laying the groundwork to build on TIEC's existing core components—service programs for its member universities, technical assistance to institutions overseas, and English as a second language programs—the discussions explored opportunities in three principal areas:

- **Student mobility:** Assistance with both recruiting international students to attend Texas universities and with facilitating study abroad opportunities for Texas students.
- **Capacity building:** In support of student mobility, assistance with enhancing universities' capacity to handle expanded international programs—including marketing, trade missions and recruitment fair participation—and with developing and administering English as a second language programs.
- **Global positioning:** Assistance for universities wishing to establish a greater international presence either from their home campuses or at locations abroad.

The next meeting of the Operating Council is scheduled to take place in April 2009.



TIEC President Ronald Aqua addresses university representatives from across the state.

TIEP Student Profile

Saudi Student Makes Her Good English Even Better in Preparation for Study at a U.S. University

In today's internationally connected world, speaking English is an important skill. Speaking English, however, is only the first step to success. This is especially true for students who want to pursue a degree at an American university. These students also must master reading and writing in English as well as study skills.



Reem Alyusuf plans graduate studies in business.

Reem Alyusuf, a 24-year-old graduate student from Saudi Arabia, began studying English at age 12. Her father, who as a young man came from Saudi Arabia to earn his undergraduate degree at Texas Tech University, provided extra help.

“At home I read many things in English, and my father used to practice English with us,” says Reem. “I know how to speak English, but it is not enough for a university.”

Last August, Reem arrived at the Texas Intensive English Program (TIEP), where she enrolled in the English for Academic Purposes program. Says Reem, “I’ve never seen this friendly atmosphere in a school. They try to help you as much as they can. I think of them as a big family.”

With a BS in business administration from King Saud University in Riyadh and sponsorship from the Saudi Ministry of Higher Education, she plans to study at TIEP for one academic year and then enroll in a graduate business school at an American university.

When she returns home, she says, “I’m going to find a job. I’m interested in banking and in working at Saudi Aramco.” From her home in Safwa in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia, Reem already has worked at the oil company Aramco as a summer trainee.

Under Ministry of Education guidelines, Reem’s father, a retired civil engineer, accompanied her to Texas. They took an apartment within walking distance of TIEP and Reem says her father is happy to be back in Texas. “He likes American football,” she says, “but I don’t understand it.”

Instead of learning football, Reem has been busy studying English. But she is looking forward to the winter break from classes.

At that time, she says with a laugh, “I’m going to visit every street and every shop in Austin.” Like TIEP, she finds Austin a good place to be. “I like Austin,” she says, “Everybody in Austin is really friendly.”

Dr. Joe W. Neal

TIEC Founder Celebrates His 92nd Birthday

“Life begins at 90,” quipped Dr. Joe W. Neal, founder and President of TIEC from 1985-1996, as he blew out the two candles on his cake marking his 92nd birthday. About 45 people attended the celebration on October 25 in Austin.

Dr. Neal briefly recounted the past nine decades, from growing up on a farm in Tennessee and living in Mississippi and Texas, to his young adult years serving in the U.S. Army and attending The University of Texas at Austin where he met his wife of more than 50 years. He explained his involvement with the establishment of the International Office at UT and subsequently the founding of TIEC.



Dr. Joe W. Neal received birthday greetings from longtime colleague Vickie Gomez from The University of Texas of the Permian Basin.

Many of the guests expressed their gratitude to Dr. Neal for the “you can do it” spirit that he instilled in so many. They extolled the opportunities he provided them to explore the world of international education and experience the cultures of nations worldwide.

Texans Discuss Best Practices with European Colleagues



President Max Castillo, University of Houston–Downtown, led a large Texas delegation to the annual meeting of the European-American University Forum (EAUF), held this year at Liverpool John Moores University in England on November 16-21. TIEC presenters at the conference included Dr. Ronald Aqua; Dr. Flavius Killebrew, Chairman of the TIEC Board and President of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi; and Dr. Dan Jones, President of Texas A&M University-Commerce. Shown above, Dr. Castillo (right) presents a resolution to Dr. Virginio L. Piucci in recognition of Dr. Piucci's more than fifty years of service to international higher education. Dr. Piucci founded EAUF in 1990 to promote intellectual exchange through the comparative study of best-of-practice in curriculum, pedagogy, administration, public service and research throughout Europe and the Americas.