



# TIEC GAZETTE

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- Saudi educators visit Texas to study community college and university operations

## 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*

## Contact TIEC

Web: [www.tiec.org](http://www.tiec.org)  
E-mail: [info@tiec.org](mailto:info@tiec.org)

1103 West 24<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, TX 78705 USA

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

### TIEP Student News

## Korean Teachers of English Witness U.S. History as Part of Language and Culture Study in Texas

It is a tradition for Korean teachers of English studying at the Texas Intensive English Program (TIEP) to walk in the annual parade celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.

This year, the teachers had an especially close look at American history and culture. They not only honored the slain civil rights leader by walking in the parade, they had an American view the next day of the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

"It was a great honor to watch an African-American president inaugurated in America," said Lee Soon Chul (Charlie), a secondary school teacher from Mokpo, after the teachers watched the ceremonies with their TIEP instructors on television.

"His job will not be easy," noted Kim Jin Suk, an elementary school teacher from Cheonan, "but he seems to be very wise and smart."

Charlie and Jin are two of 38 participants in the 8th annual Fulbright American Studies Institute for Secondary School Teachers of English. They arrived in Austin on January 4 for a month of classes at TIEP followed by a two-week residency in Texas public schools and a final week at TIEP.

At the parade, Charlie was impressed with the "oceans of people" honoring Martin Luther King, Jr., and he drew this comparison between the two African-American leaders: "MLK is a dream, but Barack Obama is a reality."

Jin, who said she has listened to King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech many times, was impressed by the mixture of races at the parade. "They were all together respecting MLK, and the speeches were very inspiring," she said.

While the parade and the inauguration were important this year, English-language study and instruction in teaching methods are the core of the TIEP and Fulbright program.

Both Charlie and Jin agreed that the program is intense—but both were happy with their experience, and both found the inclusion of public speaking to be especially valuable.

"I speak English when I teach English classes," said Jin, "but public speaking requires something more organized, more prepared, and I think it's helpful to me."

Said Charlie, "As teachers, we have to stand in front of our students every day, and as teachers we should speak in English. It's very important."

TIEP, a division of the Texas International Education Consortium (TIEC), is a fully accredited English language program. For more information, visit [www.tiec.org/tiep](http://www.tiec.org/tiep) or e-mail [tiep@tiec.org](mailto:tiep@tiec.org).



*Lee Soon Chul and Kim Jin Suk, Korean teachers studying at TIEP, walked in Austin's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day parade.*

## Design for Kuwait University Campus Builds on Educational Expertise Provided by TIEC



Dr. Joseph H. Stafford (third from left) joined the PageSoutherlandPage team in Kuwait, including (from left) Jamie Flatt-Hickey, Senior Associate, Houston; Kevin Kelly, AIA, Austin; Tamir Kayal, Senior Associate, Houston; Mohammed Bodai, Site Manager, Kuwait; Kawaljit Singh Sabharwal, Middle East Area Manager, Washington, DC.

Dr. Joseph H. Stafford represented TIEC in early December on a delegation to Kuwait to assist in planning facilities for a new university campus.

"We were all warmly received and quickly engaged in the problem solving process," said Stafford, formerly Assistant Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Research at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. On the five-day visit, Stafford served as an

educational consultant to the architectural firm of PageSoutherlandPage and Kuwait University in defining academic requirements for the new campus.

The undertaking, which Stafford described as "a very large and ambitious campus construction project," will move a number of university schools and programs located across Kuwait City to one location.

"Kuwait University is primarily an undergraduate teaching university," said Stafford, "so our emphasis was on the facilities that would facilitate the best teaching. Part of the issue was having the right number and size of classrooms and getting them properly equipped with the type of equipment that will facilitate student engagement."

Kuwait University enrolls approximately 19,000 students. The building program, which will locate a new campus on the edge of the city, anticipates an increase in enrollment to approximately 30,000 by 2025. The university enrollment is about one-third male and two-thirds female on separate areas of the campus.

### International Visitors

## Saudis Study Texas Community Colleges

Two community college executives from Saudi Arabia visited Texas in mid-December to review programs, standards, and operations that they might apply at their home institution.

Professor Saad Alshehri, Dean, and Dr. Hend A. Alwathnanai, Vice Dean, of the King Saud University Community College in Riyadh met

with Texas educators at Austin Community College, the Texas Association of Community Colleges, the Houston Community College System, and Texas State University-San Marcos.



At the TIEC office, Dr. Alshehri (left) met with TIEC President Dr. Ronald Aqua (center) and Dr. Roger W. Alford, former Director of Instruction and Academic Affairs at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (right).