



TIEC GAZETTE

May 2009

Newsletter of the Texas International Education Consortium

In This Issue

- TIEC names a new Vice President with broad international experience
- TIEP fair informs international students about Texas universities
- Campus designs for Kuwait University are closer to reality
- TIEC Operating Council discusses international studies & opportunities

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
E-mail: info@tiec.org

1103 West 24th Street
Austin, TX 78705 USA

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

TIEC Leadership

New TIEC Vice President Brings Expertise In International Education and Business

The TIEC Board of Directors has named Elyzabeth Joy Holford as the new TIEC Vice President. She will assume her new duties in Austin on June 15.

"Ms. Holford brings to TIEC a rare combination of professional experiences and academic training that are well suited to this position," said TIEC President and CEO Ronald Aqua.

"She has lived and worked overseas. She knows how universities attempt to position themselves abroad—which is important because it's something that TIEC is trying to do. And she understands that TIEC is a service provider for universities." (*cont'd on p. 3*)

TIEP Programs

Information Session Helps Foreign Students And Texas Universities Make Connections

At the Texas Intensive English Program (TIEP), programs benefit both international students and Texas universities who are TIEC members.

In a recent Student Fair at TIEP, nearly 70 students interested in pursuing degrees at an American university attended presentations in which seven Texas institutions described their offerings and answered questions ranging from academic majors to extracurricular activities.

Aimed at students in the English for Academic Purposes curriculum—TIEP's university preparation program—the fair included universities that offer conditional admission and TOEFL waiver programs to TIEP students. These programs simplify admissions for students who meet university academic requirements and complete English language study at TIEP. Conditional admission also is designed to enhance recruitment of international students to TIEC's member universities.



German Medina of The University of Texas at San Antonio, discussed programs with Nene Haby Diallo of Guinea.

The following institutions participated in the April 30 event:

- Angelo State University
- Sam Houston State University
- Tarleton State University
- Texas A&M University-Commerce
- Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
- Texas Tech University
- The University of Texas at San Antonio

The University of Texas at San Antonio is the newest addition to institutions offering conditional admission for TIEP students, having approved the program in February, 2009.



TIEP schedules Student Fairs twice a year. Any TIEC member institution may participate. Member institutions also may schedule special visits to TIEP at any time to make a presentation to students.

Pat Herrington of Sam Houston State University met with Hassan Almutairi of Saudi Arabia.

TIEC Consulting

Campus Selecting Designs for New Buildings

Kuwait University took another step toward realization of its new campus in March with help from TIEC. Dr. Joseph H. Stafford, formerly Assistant Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Research at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, joined university representatives and architects in Houston for a weeklong session that focused on the choice of building designs.

The group met with the architectural team at PageSoutherlandPage (PSP) to review conceptual designs for the university's College of Law, College of Shari'a and Islamic Studies, College of Social Sciences, and a faculty club. The university representatives then returned home to present three designs for each building to a wider audience of deans and faculty. When the final design selection is made, PSP will begin working on drawings for the buildings.

"Instructional approaches are changing relatively rapidly to include greater use of technology and for students to engage in smaller groups," said Stafford, who visited the site in Kuwait last December. "They were looking for designs that would aid that transition. They need an architectural solution that enables both large scale presentation and small scale engagement."

The new campus design will relocate Kuwait University from a number of locations in Kuwait City to a new campus on the edge of the city. The plan will accommodate an increase in enrollment by 2025 to approximately 30,000 students from the current enrollment of 19,000.



Officials of Kuwait University toured the Houston offices of PageSoutherlandPage Architects (PSP). The group included (from left) Dr. Omar Al Saleh, Assistant Vice President for Planning; Dr. Abulred AAR Assiri, Dean of the Colleges of Social Sciences; Eng. Adel Lamie Abdella, of the office of the Vice President for Planning; Dr. I. Mubarak SHAH Alhajiri, Dean of the College of Shari'a and Islamic Studies; and David Quenemoen, AIA, Vice President at PSP.

Enhancing Support for International Studies

The TIEC Operating Council met at the University of Houston on April 16 to continue its ongoing discussions about ways in which TIEC can support members' international initiatives and help share information on activities.

Council members from 20 of TIEC's 32 affiliated institutions discussed topics that included:

- Assistance to affiliated universities in improving their global positioning to take advantage of international opportunities.
- Development of international program capacity on individual campuses. Several universities reported reorganizing their international offices and expanding services.
- TIEC's efforts to gather information in support of members' study abroad initiatives.
- The Consortium to Enhance Language Diversity Abroad (CELDA) developed by the University of Houston-Victoria to promote semester-long, pre-major study abroad by Texas students.

The TIEC Operating Council is an advisory body appointed by the presidents of member universities to share information on international programs and needs. The next meeting is scheduled for October.

New TIEC Vice President *(cont'd from p. 1)*

Ms. Holford was most recently chief development officer for a Washington-based technology company. Previously, she was director of the Center for European Studies and Architecture in Switzerland operated by Virginia Tech. She also has been chief of staff at the University of the Virgin Islands, assistant dean of the College of Education and a tenured faculty member at Virginia Tech, a practicing attorney, and a consultant in organizational development.

She holds a J.D. degree from the University of Dayton, an M.A. in sport management from Ohio State University, and a B.A. in political science from Indiana University.

As TIEC Vice President, Ms. Holford will lead business development efforts and assume overall managerial responsibility for TIEC operations including finance, external relations, and program administration.

The position's combined focus on education and business—addressing TIEC's need for an entrepreneurial approach that will help the organization evolve with the changing needs of its member universities and international education—will draw directly on Ms. Holford's experience in higher education management, international business, and change management.

"International education is always important to me," she said. "The fact that TIEC focuses on international education issues in partnership with Texas member universities as well as nurturing relationships with universities outside the United States is especially appealing.

"In times of deep economic challenge, people turn to education as a source for expertise and economic development. The opportunities are present, and TIEC is well positioned to respond because of the nature of its membership.

"I think the most important thing for TIEC is to ensure that we are organized in such a way that we can meet current opportunities and, also, be prepared to address future prospects nimbly. We must be attuned to the rhythm of a global environment that is constantly changing."