



TIEC GAZETTE

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

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Enthusiastic Korean Teachers Participate in Fulbright American Studies Institute

On New Year's Day TIEC welcomed one of its largest groups of English teachers from Korea - 41 elementary, middle, and high school educators - for the eleventh annual American Studies Institute sponsored by the Korean-American Educational (Fulbright) Commission. This customized seven-week program focused on instruction in applied methodologies for teaching English as a Second Language, American culture, the U.S. educational system, and public speaking skills.

A unique feature of the program was a two-week site residency at locations around the state of Texas, coordinated by local university partners, during which trainees received the opportunity to observe public school classes and work with a mentor teacher, live with a local family, and participate in community events to gain a firsthand understanding of American society and culture. The teachers were placed at ten sites across the state representing the diverse geographic areas of Texas, including Laredo,



Korean-American Educational Commission participants and TIEC faculty and staff celebrated the Lunar New Year together.

Plainview, Denton, Abilene, and Corpus Christi.

Oh Kyung Bo, this year's group leader, commented that the teaching materials provided by TIEC included "aspects about American culture that I was able to validate by myself at the site visit. For example, Americans do have great respect for religious freedom."

Another participant, Kim

Jin Sun, observed that "before the site visit, I thought Americans were very individualistic, but

"Before the site visit, I thought Americans were very individualistic, but they really do believe in family values."

-Kim Jin Sun,
KAEC Participant

they really do believe in family values." She also stated that "what we studied at TIEC enabled us to see and experience, for example, what a PTA is or what benchmarking is.

Without this type of instruction, we wouldn't have properly understood these concepts. We now have strong, concrete images."

Japanese Teachers Complete Six-Month Training

Fourteen Japanese middle school teachers of English recently completed a six-month program at TIEC sponsored by Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (JMOC). The program began with four weeks of intensive English instruction along with a month-long home stay experience. Participants then took courses in TESL/



TEFL methodology, American public school education, American culture, research writing, and public speaking.

These activities prepared the teachers for site visits to Austin area public schools, where they observed a variety of classes, gave presentations about Japan, and assisted their mentor teachers in classroom activities. The final portion of the program included another home stay along with debriefing, reflection, integra-

tion, and evaluation at TIEC.

Participant Mami Matsumoto commented that the entire six-month experience had made her "stronger" while Tomomitsu Kamimura felt "much more confident" in his English. When the program concluded on January 20, all of the participants looked forward to using their new ideas and techniques learned while at TIEC in their classrooms back in Japan.

TIEC Begins Review and Update of PMU Curriculum

TIEC has commenced work on an extensive curriculum review for Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University (PMU) in Saudi Arabia, involving experts from 14 TIEC-affiliated universities.

The TIEC team will be examining the academic programs offered by PMU's colleges of arts and sciences, business administration, computer engineering and science, and engineering.



The members of the TIEC review panel include:

- Cherif Amor, Texas Tech University
- George S. Benson, The University of Texas at Arlington
- Warren W. Burggren, University of North Texas
- William T. Chittenden, Texas State University-San Marcos
- Peter A. Cooper, Sam Houston State University
- Raj L. Desai, The University of Texas of the Permian Basin
- Elizabeth D. Diaz, The University of Texas of the Permian Basin
- Ricky Floyd Dobbs, Texas A&M University-Commerce
- Nazmul Islam, The University of Texas at Brownsville
- Wen-Whai Li, The University of Texas at El Paso
- Jeffrey E. McGee, The University of Texas at Arlington
- Kamala Raghavan, Texas Southern University
- Susan Sabrio, Texas A&M University-Kingsville
- Sabine Thépaut, University of North Texas
- Haibo Wang, Texas A&M International University
- Victor A. Zaloom, Lamar University

Nihon University-TIEC Partnership Provides Unique Opportunity for 16 Undergraduates

Nihon University's College of International Relations, located in central Japan in the shadow of Mount Fuji, sent its seventh student delegation to study English at TIEC for one month beginning in mid-February. The 16 freshmen and sophomores are majoring in international business, international relations, and interna-



tional trade. They were accompanied to Texas by the University's Secretary for Administration, Koichi Terashima.

Nihon University professor Hirokazu Toma, a former Texas Intensive English Program (TIEP) student, has observed that students who previously participated in this program have benefited significantly from the one-month combination of lin-

guistic and cultural immersion. According to Mr. Toma, the program helps the University remain "at the forefront of university education and research with a global perspective" through this unique experience offered to its students.

For more information about TIEP's customized programs, please visit http://www.tiec.org/tiep/program_custom.php.