



# TIEC GAZETTE

Newsletter of the Texas International Education Consortium

## In This Issue

- Japanese English Teachers Prepare for Visit to Austin Area Schools
- Asian Universities Seek More Texas Students
- New TIEP Branch at Lamar University Names First Director
- TIEP Student Profile: Tatiane Hoshida Felipe
- TIEC Welcomes New Communication Manager
- University Fair Brings Campus Reps to TIEP
- Operating Council Holds Fall Meeting at UT Dallas

## 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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## Japanese English Teachers Prepare for Visit to Austin Area Schools

Fifteen public school English teachers from Japan arrived at TIEC this past July for six months of intensive training in applied teaching methods and techniques, American education and culture, research writing, and public speaking.

This unique program, which was launched last year by Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, offers participants an extended opportunity to experience first-hand several key facets of the U.S. public education system through in-class observation in various types of schools,



including a traditional four-year public high school, a traditional elementary school, a

dual-language elementary school, and a charter middle school.

For three weeks the teachers are placed in local public schools to work with mentor teachers and to give presentations to students on the culture and customs of Japan. They also have a nine-week home stay experience and audit courses during the fall semester at nearby UT-Austin.

TIEP academic coordinator Miriam Parris spoke of her confidence in this year's group, noting that "they are so dedicated to their experience here. The enthusiasm is infectious."

## Asian Universities Seek More Texas Students



Pieter Stek & Dong-Ok Chah (Sungkyunkwan) with Ronald Aqua

TIEC President Ronald Aqua found strong interest in building new ties to Texas higher education institutions during a recent round of campus visits to Zhongyuan University of

Technology in China and, in Korea, Kookmin University, Kyung Hee University, Seoul National University, Seoul National University of Science & Technology, Soongsil University, and Sungkyunkwan

University.

Most of these universities already offer summer enrichment programs in culture and language for international students but hope to attract more American undergraduates in the future, according to Dr. Aqua. They are also seeking new campus-to-campus partnerships to foster the development of joint degree programs, collaborative faculty research, and career-building corporate internships.

"Many Asian universities seem willing to offer significant incentives in order to attract more Americans to their campuses," said Dr. Aqua, "but the next step is really up to us."

## New TIEP Branch at Lamar University Names First Director

The Texas Intensive English Program (TIEP) has been providing English-as-a-second language instruction to students at the Lamar Language Institute (LLI) since August of 2011 under an agreement whereby the LLI will eventually transition to a new program owned and operated by TIEC under the name TIEP at Lamar on the Lamar University campus.

In August of 2012 James Moore assumed the directorship of the TIEP at Lamar program, which was recently

granted one-year initial accreditation by the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA) as part of the transition process.

Mr. Moore serves as TIEC's principal liaison with Lamar University and will lead and direct future growth of the program. He was previously coordinator of the English Language Institute at Sam Houston State University and brings specialties in reading, business administration, and cultural studies to his new position.

### TIEP Student Profile: Tatiane Hoshida Felipe



Accustomed to the crowds of her native Sao Paulo, returning TIEP student Tatiane Hoshida Felipe has taken a liking to the more relaxed atmosphere of Austin.

"People are friendly and I feel comfortable everywhere I go," she confides.

Back in Brazil, Tatiane was a licensed veterinarian, and she eventually hopes to pursue the same career in Texas.

She knows that the path to higher education in the United States means English fluency, but Tatiane is undaunted, stating that "it's worth it to be able to care for animals again."

### TIEC Welcomes New Communication Manager

Sibyl Kirkpatrick-McKee has joined TIEC to develop and coordinate TIEP marketing programs as well as handle general corporate communications. She will also be advising TIEP students and serve as a Designated School Official (DSO) to process prospective student inquiries and applications.



Ms. Kirkpatrick-McKee earned a bachelor of music degree from the University of North Texas, after which she spent one year teaching English in rural Japan. She then completed a master's degree in international relations and international communication from Boston University, specializing in education development and public relations.

## University Fair Brings Campus Reps to TIEP

Six Texas public universities participated in this fall's University Fair, held on September 28 at TIEC's Austin headquarters. The campus representatives conducted a panel discussion with more than 40 TIEP students and then met individually with students to provide more detailed information about their respective institutions and programs.

Kenneth Clinton, Associate Vice President for Global Initiatives and Director of International Studies at Texas A&M University-Commerce, described this semi-annual event as "very important for international students to have their questions answered and for the representative of the university to create a welcoming atmosphere."

TIEP student Sultan Altouhki agreed, saying "it was good to ask questions in person because it was faster and better than researching on the internet."

Other panelists included Michael Jiang, Director of International Student Services, Lamar University; Rosario Davis, Learning Specialist, and Carlos Laird, Associate Director of Undergraduate Admissions, Texas State University-San Marcos; Rosie McCusker, Student Recruitment and Marketing Manager, University of Houston-Victoria; Dickie Hargrave, International Recruitment Manager, University of North Texas; and Kristine Combs, Director, International Student Office, West Texas A&M University.



Rosie McCusker and Rosario Davis

### Operating Council Holds Fall Meeting at UT Dallas

The TIEC Operating Council met on November 2 at The University of Texas at Dallas to discuss current TIEC program initiatives and share information about ongoing international programs and future plans on the respective campuses.

Representatives of 12 affiliated TIEC universities briefed their colleagues on current international student enrollments, new study abroad offerings, and recent efforts to streamline the coordination of international pro-

grams and functions that frequently are split among several different offices on the same campus.

TIEC Vice President Jaime Ortiz also made a presentation on new opportunities in Latin America, noting that "despite some continuing development challenges, the region now offers a much broader range of possibilities including intensive ESL programs, assistance with curricular reform, and graduate training."