

In This Issue

- University ExpressSM Offers International Students an Accelerated Route to Academic Success
- TIEC Training Opportunities Draw International Attention at Beijing Workshop
- TIEP at Lamar Experience Led Student to Pursue Lamar University Degree
- TIEP Student Services Team Hones Skills at NAFSA Professional Development Workshops
- Vice President Finds Open Doors in Visits to TIEC-Affiliated Campuses

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

Contact Us

Web: www.tiec.org
E-mail: info@tiec.org

1103 West 24th Street
Austin, TX 78705

Phone: (512) 477-9283
Fax: (512) 322-0592



TIEC GAZETTE

Newsletter of the Texas International Education Consortium

November 2013

www.tiec.org

University ExpressSM Offers International Students an Accelerated Route to Academic Success

TIEC launched University ExpressSM (UEX) in 2002 for university-bound international students seeking more comprehensive preparation for admission to competitive institutions than the standard 20-hour-per-week intensive English program.

From a modest beginning with only three students, the program has since notched up a cumulative total of more than 1,200 enrollments by the fall of 2013.

A unique feature of UEX is individualized tutorials in which, according to current student Sara Al Bishi, "you can work on anything you want, on your morning classes, or on looking for a university or college. Anything you don't know or you don't understand about the English language or American culture, you can ask your tutor."

Fourth-semester UEX student Maan Al Harbi agrees, noting that "speaking to people is one of the hardest things for any foreign, international

student. They worry they'll make mistakes. They're nervous. With tutoring, you can break through that."



More detailed information on UEX, including costs and the application process, can be found at <http://tiec.org/tiep/universityexpress/index.php>.

TIEC Training Opportunities Draw International Attention at Beijing Workshop

TIEC Vice President David Aronofsky and TIEP Marketing and Communication Manager Sibyl Kaufman traveled to Beijing in October to showcase TIEC special programs and

promote Texas higher education more generally at a three-day workshop for education professionals organized by a major international networking organization.

According to Mrs. Kaufman, there was great interest in TIEP's pathway programs to Texas universities that feature conditional admission and TOEFL waivers as well as the many customized training programs for

professionals, students, and international education agencies that are conducted by TIEP faculty each year.

"We're seeing a lot of student populations, especially in China, recognize the importance of spending their summer vacations abroad," said Mrs. Kaufman. "Our mission is to show those students that Texas offers a high value alternative to the traditional east and west coast destinations."



TIEP at Lamar Experience Led Student to Pursue Lamar University Degree



Miguel Medina Perez (left) now works side-by-side with his former TIEP at Lamar instructor, Melanie Almufti.

Miguel Medina Perez, a Lamar University undergraduate from Mexico working on a double major in Psychology and Spanish, began his educational journey to the United States in the fall of 2011 when he enrolled in the inaugural semester of the new TIEP at Lamar program.

Mr. Perez now staffs the front desk of TIEP at Lamar every day as a student assistant, where he greets visitors, answers phone calls, and provides support to TIEP faculty and administrators.

"After I finished with my ESL classes," he recalls, "I knew what life on Lamar campus was like. So, once I started taking classes, I felt that this was my place to be. I think taking classes at TIEP made my transition from high school to college and from one country to another smoother."

"I really enjoy being part of the TIEP program and helping the students with whatever I am able," Mr. Perez continued. "I feel like I can relate to them because I have been through the same process. It is very encouraging to me seeing how the students grow and move up to the next step."

TIEP Student Services Team Hones Skills at NAFSA Professional Development Workshops

TIEP Student Services Administrator Sarah Conlon and Student Advisor Erica Cerza participated in the NAFSA Region III Conference, held in Rogers, Arkansas on October 21-24, to gain more in-depth knowledge of immigration advising for both J and F visa holders.

The four-day event was comprised of workshops, information sessions, discussions, exhibits, and special events that served as a valuable resource and supportive community for international education professionals.

Ms. Cerza contributed to a session on the topic of culture shock. Her presentation focused on the types of essential connections that impact international students' success in a host culture and discussed strategies that international offices may employ to help foster these connections.

"I enjoy NAFSA conferences so much because they offer a great way to communicate with other professionals in my field," Ms. Cerza commented. "This year, I wanted to give something back to the NAFSA community as a representative of my institution. I was excited to be able to provide attendees with a platform for networking and exchanging ideas."



Student Advisor Erica Cerza (right) converses with a TIEP student.

Vice President Finds Open Doors in Visits to TIEC-Affiliated Campuses

TIEC Vice President David Aronofsky has embarked on an extended round of visits to TIEC's far-flung participating Texas public universities, with the goal of visiting all 32 campuses by the end of December.

According to Dr. Aronofsky, these familiarization trips are proving to be enormously helpful in

identifying new collaborative project opportunities as well as academic experts across the state in high-demand fields who could assist in promoting and developing these opportunities.

Dr. Aronofsky elaborated, "Among other topics, I've talked about how TIEC might help build academic partnerships between Texas public

universities and those overseas, international development, initiatives focusing on education, and bringing international student and faculty representatives to TIEC-affiliated campuses for short-term special programs."

Links to all of TIEC's affiliated universities may be found at http://tiec.org/about_affuni.html.