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Overview

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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



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Uruguayan Fulbright Teachers Share Their Experiences and Best Practices with Austin Peers

Ten Uruguayan elementary and secondary school language teachers spent two weeks in Austin Independent School District (AISD) schools, February 1-14, 2014, working side-by-side with local host teachers under the auspices of the Uruguay Fulbright Commission, to develop their academic and linguistic skills in classroom language instruction.

Several of the visiting teachers participate in *Plan Ceibal*, Uruguay's version of the international One Laptop Per Child project, which focuses on the application of technologies in language teaching.

Tina Dong, AISD World Languages Coordinator, worked closely with TIEC

Vice President David Aronofsky to arrange the overall program schedule and individual placements, including home stays with the participating AISD teachers.

According to Ms. Dong, "The need to develop global empathy among our students is just as important, if not more, than developing academic and linguistic skills in their chosen language of study. I know this program will deeply enrich the lives

of the school community by providing opportunities for meaningful cross-cultural sharing and learning."

Dr. Aronofsky added that "*Plan Ceibal* reflects a serious effort by Uruguay's Education Ministry to confront various education challenges through effective technology use by elementary and secondary students on a national basis. TIEC greatly appreciates AISD's participation in this unique Fulbright exchange effort."



TIEP at Lamar Attains Four-Year CEA Accreditation Extension

TIEP at Lamar received four-year continued initial accreditation at the December 2013 meeting of the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA). This branch

campus of the Texas Intensive English Program, located at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas, will remain accredited through December 2017, when it will be eligible for 10-year re-accreditation.

CEA was founded in 1999 by English language teaching professionals to ensure high standards of quality in English language programs and is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education as a national accrediting agency.

Korean Teachers Enjoy Local Texas Culture in 13th Annual Fulbright Program

Thirty-five elementary, middle, and high school teachers, sponsored by the Korean-American Educational Commission (KAEC), participated in a seven-week program, January 3-February 19, 2014, which focused on teaching English as a second language, American culture, the U.S. educational system, and public speaking skills.

This was the thirteenth group of KAEC teachers to be trained at TIEC, bringing the total number to 407 since 2002.

A unique feature of this program has been two weeks of site residency in public schools and home stays with Texas families across all regions of the state, facilitated by local volunteers and participating Texas universities.

"After seven weeks in Austin and Corpus Christi, I think I have



changed a lot," said Hunyoung Lee, one of this year's participants. "TIEC provided me with a variety of chances to study American culture and to talk with people from many cultural backgrounds."

The KAEC group this year took swing and country dancing

lessons, attended the annual MLK Day Rally in Austin, and had several opportunities to join events organized by the Austin Independent School District, including a lecture by ESL theorist Stephen Krashen and coaching in social emotional learning at O'Henry Middle School.

Record Number of Nihon University Students Devote Their Spring Vacation to English Study in Austin



Nihon University students brave brisk winter weather on a tour of Austin's local sites.

Forty-one students from Nihon University College of International Relations, a record number since the program's inception in 2005, arrived at the Texas Intensive English Program (TIEP) on February 8, 2014, for a month of intensive English language study during their spring break back home in Mishima, Japan.

"I love Austin," explained Chiharu Tominaga, who had previously studied at TIEP as a high school student in a separate program conducted for Nihon University

Mishima Senior High School. "It became easier to understand Americans because the teachers taught me well, and I was also able to meet students from other countries."

The Nihon University undergraduates take conversation and American culture and society classes and participate in conversation exchange groups with American university students. They live with local families throughout their stay and also go on field trips to Texas landmarks and historical sites.

Departing Japanese Teachers Recount Highlights of Six-Month Training Program



Japanese teachers with Principal Julius Gribou III of Ridgetop Elementary School, one of the participating host schools in Austin.

Six months of training for 16 Japanese English teachers, co-sponsored by Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (MEXT) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), successfully concluded on January 24, 2014, following an eventful program at TIEC.

"What most impressed me about the program," said Kuniko Kanemaru, "was that I learned many methods of teaching English from other

teachers who are teaching here, great teachers, in playing games and how to get students more motivated."

The visiting teachers, who had labeled themselves "Team Texas" even before landing on Texas soil, were not the only ones who were impressed.

Mimi Parris, TIEP Academic Coordinator, observed, "This group demonstrated to our instructors that they were really internalizing the lessons." She also noted the increased interest in volunteer work among the Japanese teachers.

Two new components were added to this year's program: an Internet preparation class to coach teachers in taking standardized tests and be able to pass this information on to their own students, and a new class for the first month created specifically to help teachers learn a variety of study skills.

SeoulTech Students Attend TIEP at Lamar Classes During University Exchange Program

Eighteen Seoul National University of Science and Technology (SeoulTech) students attended three weeks of intensive English classes, February 3-21, 2014, at TIEP at Lamar as part of a broader exchange program between SeoulTech and Lamar University coordinated by Tae Hoon Kim, Adjunct Professor in the Department of Industrial Engineering.

This was the second group of SeoulTech students to study at TIEP at Lamar since 2012. The students also attended classes, labs, and lectures at Lamar's College of Engineering and participated in fieldtrips to Houston (including NASA) and Galveston.



Chile's Mayor University Seeks Partnerships with Texas Universities

TIEC signed a collaboration agreement in December with Mayor University, a comprehensive U.S.-accredited private university with campuses in Santiago and Temuco, Chile, to promote student and faculty exchanges with Texas public universities.

Mayor University offers 79 undergraduate and several dozen graduate degree programs in numerous disciplines, including medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, agriculture, law,

engineering, architecture, fine arts, visual arts, education, and business.

Through the efforts of TIEC Vice President David Aronofsky, Mayor University has already received two visitors from The University of Texas at Brownsville (UTB): Alla Paroiatnikova, the Executive Director of the UTB Office of Global Engagement, and Mikhail Bouniaev, Dean of the College of Science, Mathematics, and Technology.

"We were very impressed with the scope of international activities and the number of international exchange students taking classes at Mayor University," remarked Dr. Paroiatnikova. "They also showed genuine interest in a multifaceted relationship with UTB."

Additional information about Mayor University may be obtained by contacting Dr. Aronofsky (david.aronofsky@tiec.org) or Mayor University International Relations Director Rene Lara (rene.lara@umayor.cl).