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Overview

A unique association of 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

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New Leadership at TIEC

Dr. Ronald Aqua retired May 2017 after serving as president and CEO of TIEC for 10 years. We'd like to thank Dr. Aqua immensely for his service to the organization, and for his lasting imprint on international education in Texas.

Ms. Robin J. Lerner stepped into position of TIEC's fifth president and CEO on September 5, 2017. Below, she offers an initial introduction to TIEC Gazette readers, in her own words.

Last spring, I received an unexpected email introducing me to the Texas International Education Consortium, in which the sender of the email suggested that I consider applying for the role of president and CEO.

At the time, I was leading the Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues at the U.S. Department of State, and contemplating my next step forward. Prior to that role, I spent four years advancing educational and cultural exchanges globally as a deputy assistant secretary of state in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Those roles followed many years in foreign policy and public diplomacy. For a new job, my hopes were to continue to focus on the role of women and girls in development, and to play a part in bridging U.S. societies, institutions, and communities with the large-scale diplomacy, development, and exchange programs that the U.S. Government oversees every day.

Admittedly, those were broad and simultaneously specific goals, and finding the right match would not be easy. Luckily, TIEC found me, and I could not be more grateful. Through TIEC, I see vast potential in building synergies across the public and private sectors. I see the

real and measurable benefit of introducing students to a life-changing international opportunity. I also see the chance to work across the state of Texas, to build educational and cultural exchanges across our public institutions, and to work with our consortium members on any number of international issues. All of this is exciting.

I intend to ensure that TIEC continues to provide the same top-notch opportunities, projects, and quality programs our longstanding partners have come to expect. At the same time, I plan to explore new paths and directions, and to consider carefully how TIEC may best serve the internationalization of Texas higher education.

Some current trends have made our work very challenging, while other trends offer great new possibilities to us. I hope to work in close collaboration with our consortium members and renew what this idea of consortium means, for all of us.

I look forward to taking this journey with the wonderful team at TIEC and at the Texas Intensive English Program, and with our partners and stakeholders. Please, feel free to contact me any time.

My warmest wishes,
Robin

TIEC to Review and Update Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University Curricula

TIEC is reaching out to its affiliated Texas universities to assemble teams of academic experts to review and fine-tune course syllabi, textbooks, and laboratory exercises for Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University (PMU) in Saudi Arabia. This extensive review of the institution's current curriculum will also include the design of new academic programs for architecture, graphic design, and software engineering, in addition to adding a doctoral program in business administration.

Originally developed by TIEC in 2004, PMU academic plans and course syllabi later undertook a similar update by TIEC experts in 2012 to assure that programs continued to reflect the current standards of U.S. accrediting agencies and professional associations, taking into account best international practices in the respective academic disciplines and fields.

TIEC's review will also include commentary on the feedback collected from PMU colleges and programs. Consultants from TIEC will travel to the PMU in November to tour the campus and speak with faculty and administrators there.

Emerging Korean Professionals Prepare for U.S. Internships Through English Study at TIEP

The Korea WEST (Work, English Study, and Travel) program, a joint initiative created by the governments of Korea and U.S. and sponsored by Korea's Ministry of Education, takes promising university students, graduates, and young professionals from Korea and provides an exchange experience of up to 18 months that includes English-language study and work experience in the U.S.

TIEC received its second group of WEST participants on August 28, 2017, to begin the English training component of the WEST program at TIEP in preparation for internships with a U.S. host company arranged by Austin-based Alliance Abroad Group (AAG).

During their three-month training program at TIEP, the 39 Korea WEST participants attend English-language and U.S. culture courses alongside other international students currently representing 12 countries.



Korea WEST participants and TIEP students mingle in an active get-to-know-you class activity.

The participants are also auditing one or more university undergraduate classes, and some are doing volunteer work at Austin area nonprofit organizations.

Auditing a university class is an excellent opportunity for the WEST students to learn about a subject of interest in English and in an environment with students pursuing undergraduate degrees.

"There are still some parts I don't understand," admitted Juyeon Lee, when asked to describe her experience auditing a sociology class at a local university. "But I like being in the class, because American students are very active. I was impressed by students participating in class and communicating with their professor."

After completing their training at TIEC, AAG will place the participants in professional internships, with a priority on Austin organizations, to receive hands-on experience in U.S. business practices in their chosen occupational field or academic major.

Korean Officials Cultivate Global Connections While Refining Their English Skills in Customized Program

TIEC welcomed 26 local government officials from Korea for a four-week English training program, April 17 – May 13, 2017, designed to promote global awareness and English-language proficiency, as well as to help build relationships between the Korean officials and their U.S. counterparts.

This is the second delegation to arrive for onsite training at TIEC as part of a 10-month Global Leaders Program conducted by the Local Government Officials Development Institute (LOGODI) in Korea, part of that country's Ministry of the Interior.

The officials completed English-language and U.S. culture classes taught by TIEC's Texas Intensive English Program (TIEP) and took educational and cultural visits to museums, the Texas State Capitol, and other areas of interest in Austin, San Antonio, and Houston. The participants also visited both State of Texas and City of Austin government offices, met with government officials, and attended special lectures by experts on local government and public services.

Yonseog Seo, from Changwon-si, said he found the special lectures to be especially insightful, as they gave him the chance to listen to the perspective of professionals in their field of expertise.



"LOGODI wants us to have dynamic and many different kinds of experiences," Seo explained. "Through TIEC, we have chances to expand our English skills, and we can experience American culture."

Following their training at TIEC, the Korean officials divided into separate study groups to explore their respective areas of interest at different cities around the U.S. – including New Orleans, Boston, and New York, among others – before convening in Washington D.C. for the final part of their leadership program in the U.S.

Japanese Students Enjoy Language Study and Local Culture

Forty students and two teacher chaperones from Nihon University's Mishima Senior High School arrived in Austin on July 22, 2017, for a three-week customized summer training pro-

gram of intensive English and U.S. culture study. This is the eighteenth group of Mishima students to study at TIEP since 2000.

The program featured 15 hours of classroom instruction at TIEP each week augmented by outside activities in and around Austin – including cultural field trips to the Texas State Capitol and San Antonio, museum tours, a social picnic at the park, and escorted visits to popular local venues.

"The students enjoyed it, especially the activities," said Ayaka Takeda, one of the teacher chaperones who teaches English at Mishima Senior High School. "Their homework required them to visit many places – like museums, grocery stores, shopping locations – and talk to the local people."

The Japanese students also had the opportunity to polish their new English skills in special conversation and activity sessions held with local American students and other TIEP students, and to experience everyday life in Austin during a weekend homestay with local families.



Mishima Senior High School students spell out "TEXAS ♥" in a photo opportunity at the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio, Texas.