TIEC Welcomes New Vice President Ryan Buck, Ph.D.

Ryan Buck, Ph.D., assumed the role of Vice President of the Texas International Education Consortium (TIEC) on April 4, 2018. Dr. Buck is no stranger to TIEC and has participated in its Operating Council for the last three years in his previous role as Assistant Vice President for International Affairs at Texas State University.

“TIEC is thrilled to welcome Dr. Buck, whose international experience and entrepreneurial spirit will take us in exciting new directions,” said TIEC President and CEO Robin Lerner. “He has a depth of knowledge not only in the inner workings of the Texas university systems, but in international education as a whole. As we look to continuously evolve and grow as a consortium, I trust Dr. Buck’s abilities to offer comprehensive and strategic leadership in enhancing our profile, reputation, and partnerships abroad.”

Although Dr. Buck is stepping down from his position at Texas State, he is excited to continue his work with the Texas university systems. He will also continue his work with the organization Study Texas and has gotten TIEC accepted as an associate member of the organization. (Continued)
TIEC Welcomes New Vice President

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“Coming from Texas State, a TIEC member institution, I learned what Texas institutions may need and what they can offer international projects,” Dr. Buck said. “I also learned how TIEC is really a value added to Texas institutions’ internationalization efforts.”

Dr. Buck noted that his expertise is in partnership development, strategic enrollment management, comprehensive internationalization, and collaborating with a broad spectrum of stakeholders to achieve global engagement outcomes. Excited for his new role at TIEC, he commented that the organization’s mission and member institutions attracted him to the position.

“I love bringing diverse groups together and advancing toward common goals,” Dr. Buck said. “I look forward to sharing my experience in higher education and working with institutional leadership to collaboratively work with faculty, chairs, and deans to achieve internationalized goals.”

According to Dr. Buck, it is his ability to listen and learn that will enable him to help institutions connect the dots and achieve their goals.

“Our consortium is diverse and engaged and, Texas is motivated, innovative, and has a global brand identity,” Dr. Buck said. “Matching Texas academic programs and research projects with partners around the world is what excites me the most. I am really excited about what we will co-create as a consortium in the international higher education space!”

When asked if there was anything else he’d like to add about his transition to TIEC, Dr. Buck mentioned his belief that international education is transformational for individuals and communities, and cited himself as living proof.

“I am a product of Texas public education, and early on I was encouraged to live and work abroad by numerous Texas educators and scholars,” Dr. Buck said. “We all need to work together to encourage a new generation of students, scholars, educators, thinkers, entrepreneurs, artists, etc. to go beyond their borders, and encourage Texans to experience the world and be globally engaged citizens.”

To contact TIEC Vice President Ryan Buck, Ph.D., email ryan.buck@tiec.org, tweet @GlobalBuck, and find him on LinkedIn @Ryan Buck.

TIEC Visits PMU in Saudi Arabia for Curriculum Development and Academic Program Review

Leaders of the PMU curriculum review and design team arrive in Dammam, Saudi Arabia. From left to right: Hongchi Shi (Texas State University), John Bryant (Texas A&M University), Nick Poullon (TIEC), Mark Kroll (The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley), and Robin Lerner (TIEC).

TIEC President and CEO Robin Lerner accompanied team members representing 14 TIEC-affiliated universities to Saudi Arabia in January. The purpose of the trip was to meet with administrators and faculty at Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University (PMU) in preparation for the curriculum review and design of academic programs for the university.

TIEC assembled an academic team to work in collaboration across universities and university systems to closely examine the academic programs offered by PMU’s colleges of arts and sciences, business administration, computer engineering and science, engineering, and law.

Designs for new academic programs in architecture, graphic design, software engineering, and a doctoral program in business administration are similarly underway.
Since August 1977, Texas Intensive English Program (TIEP) Director Terry Simon, Ph.D., has called 1103 West 24th Street his work home. However, after more than 40 years of services to the organization, Dr. Simon has decided to hang up his TIEP hat and announce his retirement.

In a farewell letter to TIEC staff, Dr. Simon said, “Please know that I have greatly appreciated your steadfast support, professionalism, and commitment to the organization and to our students and other clients.” He continued, “We have always set very high standards for ourselves, accomplished much, and persevered. And our clients and colleagues appreciate our efforts.”

According to TIEC President and CEO Robin Lerner, Dr. Simon’s guidance and dedication to global education will be greatly missed.

“It is not often you find someone willing to dedicate their life to the work of the same organization for more than 40 years,” Lerner said. “TIEC feels exceedingly honored to have benefited from Dr. Simon’s leadership and expertise for as long as we have, and we wish him the best in his retirement. We will certainly miss him.”

From changing student demographics over 40 years, the merger with TIEC in 1992, the digitization of education, to the growth of social media and online marketing, Dr. Simon has witnessed the evolution of the program and English language instruction firsthand.

The program has served more than 30,000 students from 131 countries who have come to TIEP to strengthen their English skills and to learn about the people, culture, and customs of the United States.

“Former students keep dropping by to reminisce and tell us how much they value their experience at TIEP and how much they appreciate all we did for them,” Dr. Simon said. “Just last week a former student from Mexico who studied with us in 1980 stopped by to do just that, and to request an application form for his nephew.”

Dr. Simon’s last day with the organization is April 13.
Representatives from Korea WEST Program Come for Annual Visit

Representatives from the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea along with representatives from the Korean Ministry of Education’s National Institute for International Education visited the Texas Intensive English Program (TIEP) in March as part of an annual site visit for its Korea Work, English Study, Travel (WEST) program.

TIEP has been working with the Alliance Abroad Group (AAG) to provide Korea WEST students the English training component of their program since January 2017. Since that time, TIEP has taught three cohorts, and more than 100 students have participated in the program.

"The students come for English training and cultural orientation to prepare for their internships," TIEP’s Director Terry Simon, Ph.D. explained. “They really are highly motivated and excellent students—it has been a joy to have them in our classes.”

It is the second time representatives from the program have traveled to Austin to meet with their students and to visit the site.

“They had questions about how the students are engaging with the community,” Dr. Simon said. “We spoke a lot about school-wide events such as Valentine’s Day, a Lunar New Year celebration the students organized, and an international potluck we hosted.”

Simon explained that it’s not just about interacting with students taking TIEP courses. The organizers of the Korea WEST program want students to have a diverse experience and meet a wide range of Americans as well.

Not only does TIEP host weekly conversation clubs with Texas students, but students in the program often audit university courses as well.

“We offer a list of recommended courses for students to sit in on and audit at The University of Texas at Austin,” Dr. Simon said. “We make sure the courses do not conflict with their English classes at TIEP, and it is another way for the students to interact with others and to immerse themselves in American university culture.”

The spring cohort of Korea WEST students ended their courses on March 9. The next cohort is set to begin in August.

Nihon University Students Participate in TIEP Program

Thirteen students from Nihon University in Tokyo, Japan devoted their school break to a four-week intensive English language and American culture program at TIEP, February 3 – March 3, 2018.

The group attended classes 20 hours per week at TIEP and lived in home-stays for the duration of their program. They participated in communication exchanges in Japanese and English with American university students, and visited sites of cultural interest in Austin and San Antonio.

More than 200 undergraduate students from Nihon University have participated in similar training programs at TIEP since 2005.
Uruguay Fulbright Recipients Get Texas Family Welcome Thanks to TIEC

TIEC conducted a professional development program for 25 Uruguayan secondary and elementary public school educators, January 3 to February 17, 2018, under the auspices of the Uruguay Fulbright Commission. Following a brief stay in Washington, D.C., these educators spent two weeks in Austin in various local area public schools with U.S. educator counterparts, in addition to attending local cross-cultural programs.

During this time, the visiting Uruguayan educators lived with their Austin Independent School District (AISD) host teacher or with a local family.

"I have hosted in the past," said Lori Saucedo, a middle school Spanish teacher in Austin who participated in the program for the second time this year. "It has been an amazing experience for both my students and my children at home – and, of course, for me."

KAEC Celebrates 17 Years of Learning with TIEC


The program aims to fully acclimate teachers to the American secondary school system, and is broken down into three parts.

The teachers first participated in four weeks of orientation on U.S. culture and ESL teaching methodologies in preparation for a school site residency. They then spent two weeks in a Texas school district outside of Austin for active site collaborations.

While completing their residency, the teachers lived with an American family, and was able to better integrate and experience Texas culture.

During their final week at TIEC, the Korean teachers reflected on their experiences, and formulated a plan to integrate and share the knowledge and skills gained during the program into their teaching back home in Korea.