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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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TIEC Representatives Speak at Yucatán Conference

TIEC Vice President David Aronofsky and TIEP Director Terry Simon were featured speakers at the Engineering and Technology Innovation Congress (Congreso de Innovación Ingeniería y Tecnología), CIITEC 2016, held at the Instituto Tecnologico Superior Progreso (ITSP) in Yucatán, Mexico, May 25-27.

In his presentation, Dr. Aronofsky discussed the importance of English fluency in the professional job market and workplace, both generally and in technology companies. Dr. Simon conducted a workshop for the ITSP English teachers and English teachers from Progreso-area high schools on the field of teaching English as a foreign language, including accreditation of intensive English programs, current and future trends, and resources for English-language teachers and learners.

This event was the latest cooperative endeavor between TIEC and ITSP since an ITSP faculty member, Iván Fuentes, came to TIEC as part of the Proyecta 100,000 English as a Second Language program in November 2014. Based on his experience in the program, Mr. Fuentes helped arrange visits by two senior ITSP administrators to TIEC in January 2015.

TIEC also organized a visit hosted by TIEP at Lamar for ITSP General Director Lila Rosa Frías and ITSP Associate Director Arturo Sánchez Escalante in April 2016, in which collaborative opportunities between ITSP and the Center for Advances in Port Management at Lamar University (LU) as well as between Yucatán’s Port of Progreso and the Port of Beaumont, were discussed.

Dr. Brian N. Craig, interim director of the Center for Advances in Port Management at Lamar University, and Dr. Alberto Marquez, a Lamar University engineering professor, were also invited to speak at CIITEC 2016 on the LU Port Center.

While in Yucatán, the Texas delegation also visited the Port of Progreso. In addition, Drs. Aronofsky and Simon met with the Strategic Planning Director for the Yucatán Higher Education Office to discuss potential future collaborative projects between TIEC and State of Yucatán public postsecondary institutions.
TIEC Operating Council Discusses Current Initiatives and Long-Range Objectives

Representatives from 15 Texas public universities convened in Austin, Texas on May 6, 2016, for the semiannual TIEC Operating Council meeting to exchange information about current international programs and initiatives on their campuses as well as network with colleagues from across the state.

During the discussion, one common theme was the streamlining of internal operations for managing the increased presence of international students on campuses, including the consolidation of different international student services into a single office, i.e., the “one-stop shop.” Growing interest in study abroad has also led to changes in processes that would encourage greater participation of both faculty and students in such outbound programs.

The following universities were represented at the meeting: Angelo State University, Midwestern State University, Stephen F. Austin State University, Sul Ross State University, Texas A&M International University, Texas A&M University—Kingsville, Texas State University, Texas Tech University, The University of Texas at Dallas, The University of Texas at El Paso, The University of Texas at Tyler, University of Houston—Clear Lake, University of Houston—Victoria, University of North Texas, and West Texas A&M University.