



TIEC GAZETTE

March 2001

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New TIEC Board Chair

At the annual meeting of the TIEC Board of Directors, held in July 2000, Dr. Bob K. Marks, President Sam Houston State University, (SHSU), was named as the sixth Chairperson of the Board. President Marks has had a long history of involvement with TIEC, beginning with his service on the Operating Council before becoming a Board member in 1996. His strong interest in international activities is

an integral part of Sam Houston State University's mission to serve an ever-growing international presence on the SHSU campus.



Study Abroad Programs in Morocco: Summer 2001

TIEC will offer two Study Abroad Programs in Morocco during the summer of 2001.

Morocco Cultural Study Program is a two-week program that offers participants the opportunity to study several aspects of the Moroccan culture, including Moroccan sacred arts and traditions. The program includes visits to the Moroccan cities of Rabat, Fez, Meknes, and Marrakech, as well as attendance at the 7th Annual Fez Festival of World Sacred Music. The program dates are May 27 - June 9, 2001.

Into Africa: Morocco 2001 is a four-week program offering a unique opportunity to study Moroccan architecture, arts and crafts and to learn how they are utilized in the interior design of Moroccan villas, mosques, schools, hotels, and other civic and secular buildings. The program will be based in the capital city, Rabat, with visits to the cities of Casablanca, Tangier, Fez, Meknes, and Marrakech. The program is designed in collaboration with Dr. Nancy Kwallek, Interior Design Program, School of Architecture, University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Kwallek will teach several University of Texas credit-bearing courses during the program. Courses will include classroom and studio sessions, in addition to daily field trips. The course dates are June 6 - July 13, with travel in Morocco scheduled for June 10 to July 7, 2001.

For information, contact: icite@tiec.org

Announcements:

On April 19, 2001 the Higher Education Fair will be held at the Texas Intensive English Program (TIEP), a wholly-owned subsidiary of TIEC. On April 20 there will be a TIEC Operating Council Meeting in Austin. Please contact the TIEC office for more information.

Academic Bridge Program To Open in Doha, Qatar

In September 2000, TIEC signed an agreement with the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development in Doha, Qatar, to design and operate an Academic Bridge Program (ABP) for high school graduates from Qatar and other countries in the Gulf region. The new ABP will address the universal problem of student academic and cultural transition from high school to the university, but has been specifically designed to meet the needs of students in the Gulf region. ABP students will identify their natural talents, select appropriate fields of study to match those talents, and develop the academic and personal skills necessary to succeed in an undergraduate degree program within one of those fields at English-language-based world-class universities, including the new university being developed in Doha by the Qatar Foundation.

Several innovative elements have been incorporated into the design of the Academic Bridge Program to help achieve these goals. One example is the creation of a Resource Center. This Center will be a special facility where students can come for instruction not usually provided in regular classes. Students will be able to find skilled professionals and trained tutors, as well as materials to help them with specific academic issues. Classes, workshops, and seminars will be conducted at the Center, as well as individual counseling and advising.

Other unique aspects of the program include the Individual Learning Plan and the Student Learning Teams. An Individual Learning Plan will be developed at the outset of the program for each student by academic advisors. Throughout the program of study the academic advisors and faculty will monitor students' progress toward achieving their Individual Learning Plans and counsel them regularly. In assessing the aptitudes and talents of students, each student will be advised regarding the broad fields of study appropriate for individuals with his or her particular aptitudes. In addition to this individual attention, students will also participate in Student Learning Teams composed by faculty and staff. These teams will enable the students to work on various projects and activities that will assist them in developing team skills, building a sense of community, improving English proficiency, and creating a supportive learning environment.

More than 30 faculty and administrators from 19 TIEC-affiliated universities have been hard at work designing the curriculum, admission policies, academic regulations, organizational structure, facility requirements, and operating plan of the ABP. TIEC will operate the Program under contract to the Qatar Foundation beginning in September 2001. Currently, TIEC is accepting applications for faculty and administrative positions available for this program. More information about the Program and these career opportunities is available at TIEC website: www.tiec.org.