



# TEXAS INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

Annual Report 2021

Texas Based, Globally Engaged

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

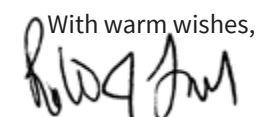
Like all of our colleagues in international education, TIEC continues to adapt to the pandemic's impact on international travel and in-person programming. For TIEC, COVID provided enough crisis to force us to be clear about what we want to do, what we can do within the field of international education, and what our members need us to do.

We successfully turned the corner during the pandemic on our programmatic model and our function as a membership organization. We leaned hard into our new role and opportunities and learned valuable lessons about our own capacity and the ways we needed to adapt our organization to reach our goals. If FY20 was about figuring out how we could best serve the needs of our stakeholders under this new set of realities, FY21 was dedicated to refining and solidifying both our programs and TIEC as a member organization.

As we reflect on this year's work, we have solid programs that contribute to international education, fulfill our mission to increase internationalization of higher education in Texas, include our consortium expertise effectively, and offer learning outcomes that are in high demand among partners and donors. We launched the TIEC Fellowship for Afghan Evacuees: TIEC's first program to support member internationalization through giving. Our membership has grown in size and engagement with the launch of our paid and expanded membership model, and our members show eagerness to be in the network. Our board is engaged and supportive, and offers outstanding leadership and guidance.

Finally, we are proud to be respected by our peer organizations within our industry and sought out as potential partners. We were honored to be "highly commended" for the Real Life Learning award during the 2021 PIONEER Awards, and we are thrilled to be taking the stage at the SXSW EDU Conference in 2022.

In 2022, TIEC will be seeking a new headquarters after selling our organizational home of 35 years. The symbolism of this is not lost on me. We are not weighted down by our past; rather, we take our experiences forward into the world as it is today and will be this decade. With our ever-expanding network of members, our new programmatic capacity and partners, and our strategy to invest in our members through our new fellowship program, TIEC will continue to grow as a strong and valuable leader in higher education internationalization. Please stay in close touch. I am grateful for your support and partnership with TIEC.

With warm wishes,  


Robin J. Lerner  
President & CEO  
Texas International Education Consortium



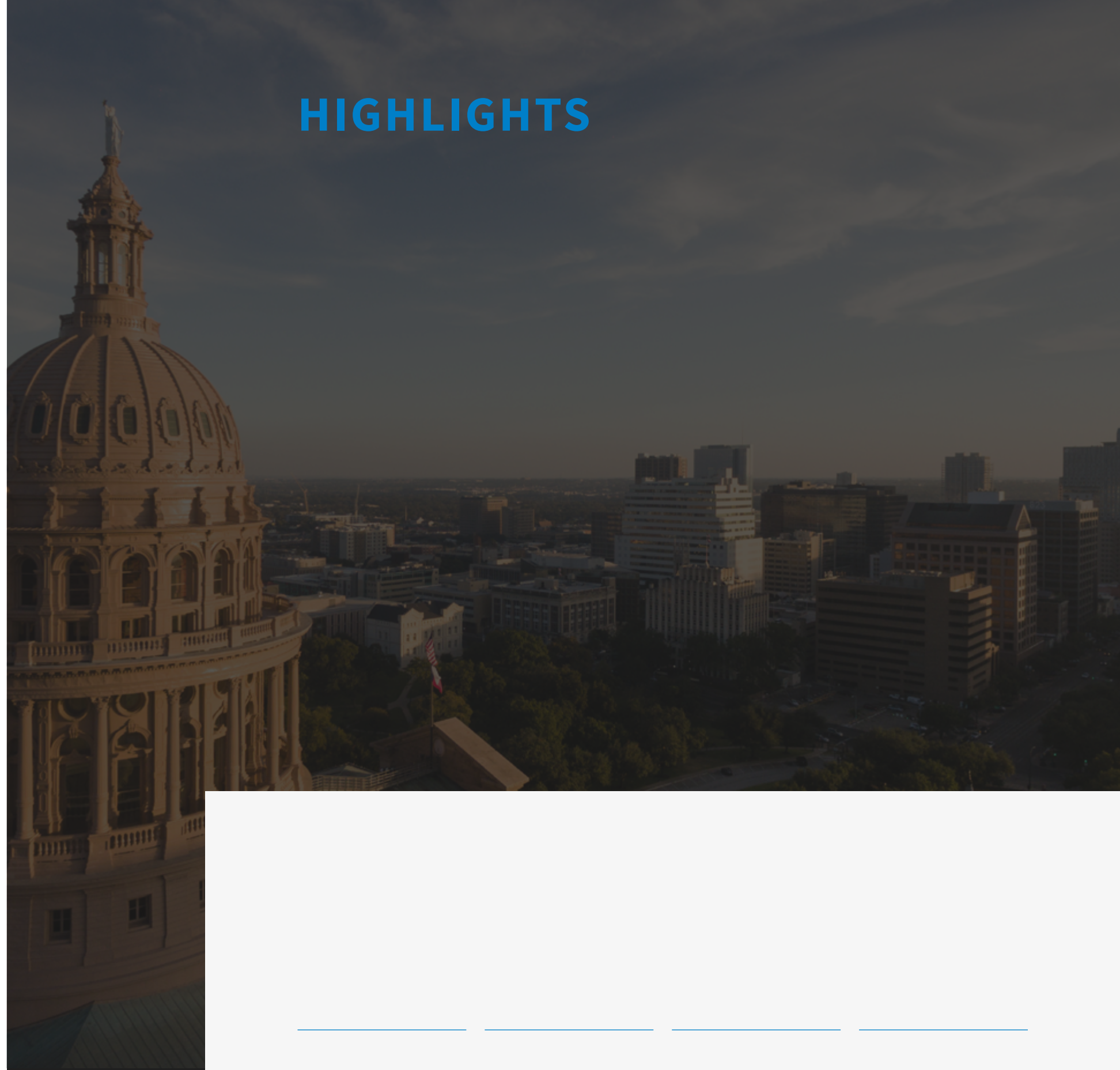
# Harnessing the ingenuity of Texas to do good in the world.

TIEC's Mission: To expand international education by facilitating and fostering lasting relationships between Texas and partners around the world toward building educational access, economic opportunity, institutional capacity, and professional development for those we serve and include.

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# HIGHLIGHTS





TIEC's model of collaboration is valued.

# BOARD CHAIR MESSAGE

We are building a larger and simultaneously more close-knit global network that allows our institutions to maximize international opportunities.

One year ago, TIEC launched a new membership model that opened the opportunity for expansion beyond the public universities of Texas. It was an experiment — a test of whether private institutions across Texas and partners around the world would see value of collaboration toward internationalization with and for the State of Texas. As we close 2021, I am pleased to see that we have the largest and most diverse consortium in TIEC's history. Our members are engaged and, thus, our first set of results appears positive: TIEC's model of collaboration is valued.

Higher education stands to gain so much by harnessing the potential of cooperation around internationalization. Educating our students in a diverse, culturally rich environment is integral to preparing a globally competent workforce and, at times, we may advance our efforts most effectively working cooperatively.

Through TIEC, we are building a larger and simultaneously more close-knit global network that allows our institutions to maximize international opportunities. Our

*As we close 2021,*  
I am pleased to see that we have the largest and most diverse consortium in TIEC's history.

*Together,*  
the TIEC network can pool resources across our institutions.

## Lawrence Schovanec

TIEC Board Chair

Texas Tech University  
President

Since Dr. Lawrence Schovanec was named Chair of the TIEC Board of Directors in 2020, TIEC has expanded its membership by 26%, grown its strategic reserves by more than 45%, and received its largest single government grant in its history. Dr. Schovanec has steered TIEC through the Coronavirus pandemic, guiding the organization to successfully take on new programmatic directions. Likewise, under his leadership during a time of extreme challenge, Texas Tech University, saw a four percent growth in enrollment in fall 2020 and for the first time enrolled more than 40,000 students.



TIEC Board Chair  
Lawrence Schovanec

students become the primary benefactor, as student mobility and globalized curriculum increase with an enlarged network that has partnership with Texas as an intrinsic value.

Together, the TIEC network can pool resources across our institutions. This year, TIEC launched its own Virtual Exchange Academy to offer faculty training that, for many member universities, would be too burdensome to build in-house. With that training, a greater number of our students will benefit from courses that offer a globalized curriculum and international exposure in the classroom. Those experiences, in turn, build a Texas workforce with the kind of intercultural competencies that help keep Texas internationally competitive.

TIEC has also facilitated the participation of scores of Texas faculty in programs that expand their networks, their international credentials, and promote their institutions with new partners. Our members are fortunate to have this program management resource in TIEC. Our faculty share

their expertise and work alongside peers around the world and TIEC manages the rest.

Now, as we look ahead to 2022, where can the combined expertise and resources of Texas higher education best meet today's biggest challenges? Tackling changing needs around the world for energy and climate solutions is one such challenge we are poised to take on as a consortium. In 2021, TIEC stood up an Energy Working Group of experts across our membership, with the aim of contributing to the global clean energy transition

*Higher education stands to gain so much by harnessing the potential of cooperation around internationalization.*

through joint projects with partners around the world.

As 2021 closes, I look back at TIEC's accomplishments to secure new partnerships and possibilities that tap into the true potential of a consortium like ours, and I am eager to see what 2022 brings.

Thank you all for your continued engagement and support.

With my best regards,

Lawrence Schovanec, TIEC Board Chair  
President  
Texas Tech University

# 2021 SNAPSHOT



## Our consortium grew to include **39 UNIVERSITIES**

9 private and 26 public universities in Texas and 4 affiliate universities outside of the United States.

## ~500 OGC members

TIEC's Online Global Community includes nearly 500 members.

**2**

TIEC projects spurred IRB-approved research

**13**

degree programs reviewed by TIEC through curriculum services programs

**96**

K-12 English language teachers and administrators completed TIEC's English Language Training Institute

Virtual Networking

# EVENTS

## Spotlights

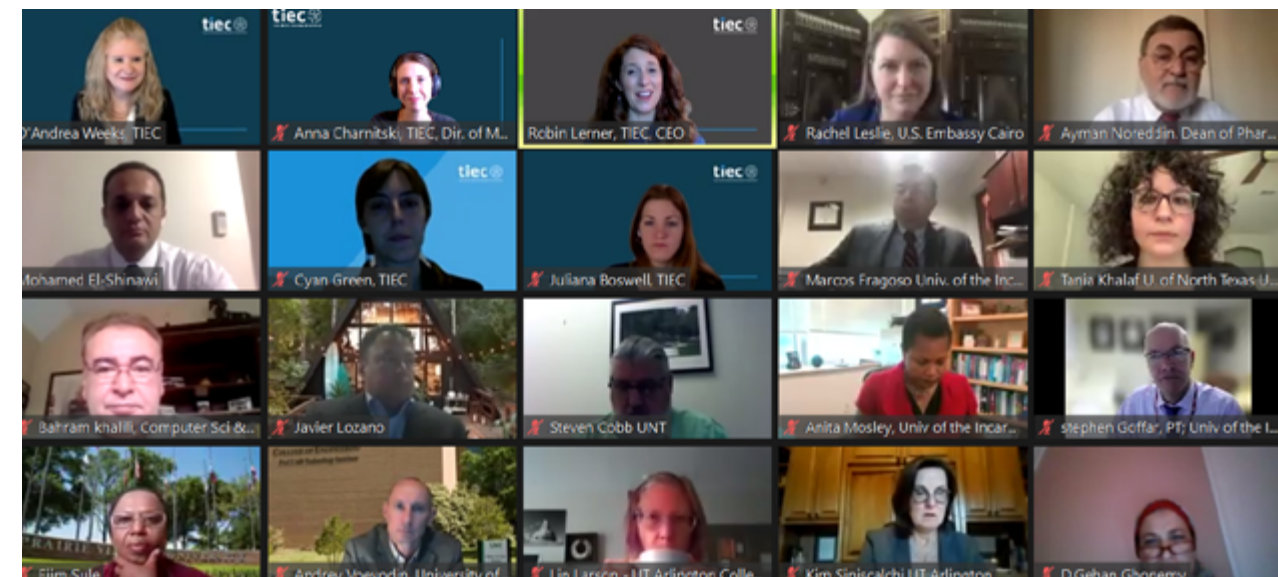
As a benefit to affiliates, TIEC hosts virtual networking events to facilitate partnership-building with Texas members.

Over 80 participants from 12 Texas universities joined TIEC's event with Prince Mohammed Bin Fahd University; and 41 attendees from 11 Texas institutions joined Galala University of Egypt.

**13**

TIEC hosted events

TIEC hosted a total of 13 member events over the year.



# INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

TIEC has chosen to focus on specific programs around which we can build deep expertise and impact.

## A Year of Programs

TIEC's programmatic expertise and capability situate us as a unique membership organization. Implementing impactful and sought-after programming creates awareness of Texas expertise globally and provides a platform for our institutions and experts to engage peers worldwide. In short, it makes TIEC a relevant contributor to international education.

TIEC's COVID-responsive international programs created early in 2020 provided steady programmatic work for Fiscal Year

2021, as did our large award with the American University of Iraq in Sulaimani. TIEC only lost one (out of six) pre-COVID programs due to the pandemic, with the majority of programs postponed to FY2021. Fiscal Year 2022 will, thus, bring intense implementation of these deferred programs in addition to the new programs generated in FY 2020, including the potential for in-person components in the spring.

Interestingly, the pandemic gave TIEC the space to narrow down our program offerings and focus



on programs that fit our expanded membership model. While there are always programs we want to do, we have narrowed down to specific programs that we can build deep expertise and impact around.

JAN

Higher Education  
American University of Iraq, Sulaimani

FEB

MAR

Flexible Learning  
Ghana

APR

Flexible Learning  
Philippines

MAY

JUN

English Language  
Teaching Institute

JUL

Virtual Exchange  
Academy

AUG

SEP

Curriculum Review  
Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd Univ.

OCT

Online  
Global Community

NOV

TIEC offered a virtual exchange program with high school students from Mishima, Japan and Corsicana, TX in August.

# Students from Japan engaged with peers from the other side of the world, built their language skills, and developed their speaking confidence.

## Types of Programs



### Curriculum Services

**Programs in which TIEC works with teachers, faculty, or administrators to improve their curriculum and/or instructional capacity.** These include programs in online course design, online instruction, establishing university-wide systems for continuous quality improvement, curriculum reviews, and TIEC's English Language Teaching Institute (ELTI). TIEC has online and in-person professional development programs for English instructors and administrators around the world. TIEC's ELTI helps universities create or grow their own English language curriculum, as well as works with K-12 English instructors and administrators, who create the foundations for students to engage in English curricula at university.



### University Partnerships

**Programs that facilitate cooperation between our member university administrators, faculty, and researchers and peers around the world.** This year, TIEC successfully established a virtual matchmaking event for our affiliate members. We hosted events for two of our affiliate members and are piloting additional opportunities to facilitate university partnerships.



### Internationalization

**Programs that contribute to the increased capacity of members — individual and institutional — to internationalize their curriculum, policies, programs, and methodologies.** In 2021, one of the greatest needs was to provide global opportunities for students when international travel and study abroad were suspended. TIEC leveraged in-house and consortium expertise with virtual exchange, developed as a part of the Chris Stevens Initiative Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic, a division of the Aspen Institute, to launch our own TIEC Virtual Exchange Academy in 2021.



### English

**Programs that offer intensive English language learning for individual students.** Over the past year, TIEC continued to offer flagship intensive English programs through CEA-accredited classes. Going forward, TIEC will take a pause in our English offerings for individual learners and instead focus on English language teachers around the world through our ELTI.



# Support to American-Style Higher Education in Iraq

American University of Iraq, Sulaimani



*"As we return to campus and move into the second and final year of this grant, I look forward to working with the new faces joining this project! Although we are based on two continents and have collaborators from universities across Texas, we all share the same goal of continued improvement at AUIS."*

— Dr. Rachel Gresk  
Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs  
The American University of Iraq, Sulaimani

**Hand in hand with TIEC and Texas faculty, the American University of Iraq, Sulaimani (AUIS) is creating gender-inclusive curriculum, policies, and procedures in Iraq.**

In northern Iraq, AUIS, an American-style educational institution, is a beacon of hope for a bright future for young Iraqis. To live up to that hope, AUIS has committed to make specific pedagogical advancements that offer additional opportunities for their students. Through a State Department-funded program, TIEC is honored to be AUIS's partner as they take on this challenge.

12

degree programs reviewed through TIEC's curriculum services program with AUIS.

# University Partnerships Initiative — Flexible Learning

Responding and Reimagining Education in Ghana

*"The project propels us in our pursuit of building the needed capacity for the establishment of a more resilient and robust e-learning system that ensures seamless academic work all year round and also offer us the opportunity to transfer knowledge to individuals less privileged to access in-person learning experience from our University."*

— Prof. Rita Akousa Dickson  
KNUST Vice-Chancellor



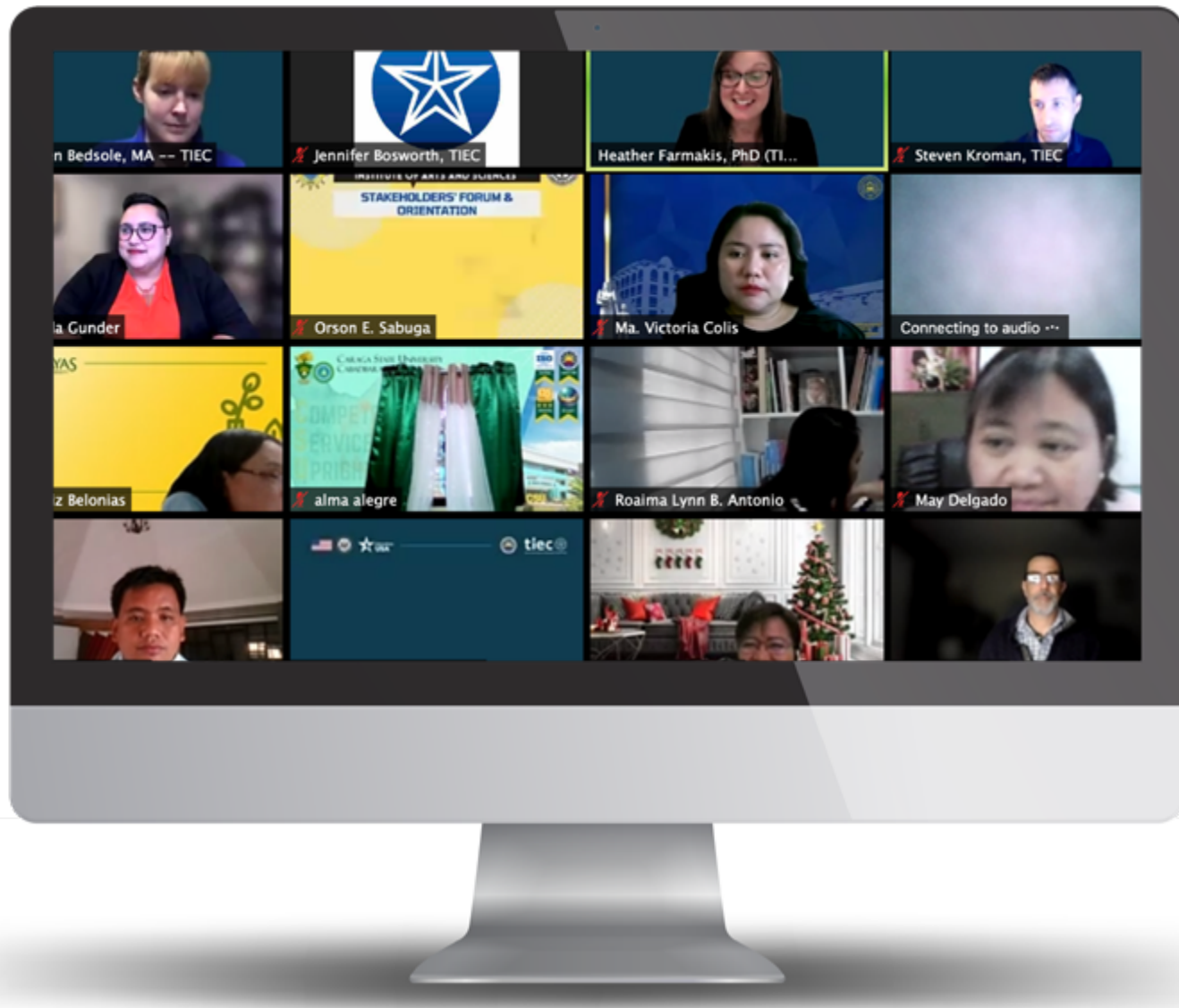
**Ghana is poised to become a West African hub for online instructional excellence.**

Through a State Department-funded program, TIEC and our Texas faculty experts are collaborating with Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) to build capacity and develop a center of excellence for online instruction for the entire region.

32

participants at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Ghana are successfully transitioning from only face-to-face instruction to online and hybrid modalities.





## University Partnerships Initiative — Flexible Learning

Responding and Reimagining Education in The Philippines

42

higher education institutions

165

participants

across the Philippines are successfully transitioning from only face-to-face instruction to online and hybrid modalities

## TIEC's English Language Teaching Institute

The Texas International Education Consortium's English Language Teaching Institute (ELTI) is geared towards ESL/EFL educators and administrators. TIEC's English Language Institute can be used as a pre-program preparation for educators coming to the United States for study; post program follow-up for in-person study; or professional development in the place of an in-person study program for educators. FY2021 included TIEC's ELTI for EFL Instructors in Egypt with U.S. Embassy Cairo.

96

K-12 English language teachers and administrators completed TIEC's English Language Training Institute in FY2021.

## TIEC's Virtual Exchange Academy

Launched in the spring of 2021, TIEC's Virtual Exchange Academy is focused on building capacity for Texas faculty and an international partner with coaching infused throughout development and implementation. TIEC's own program builds on lessons learned through TIEC's past Virtual Exchange Program for Nursing in Egypt, Jordan, and Texas, funded through the Stevens Initiative, a part of the Aspen Institute.

*"I really enjoyed the opportunity to work on our own VE but also seeing other VE ideas from other groups. I enjoyed learning about other platforms to utilize to engage students in VE."*

— Summer 2021 Session participant  
TIEC Virtual Exchange Academy





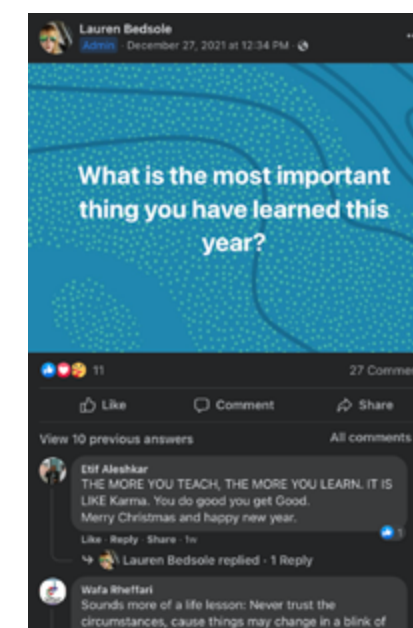
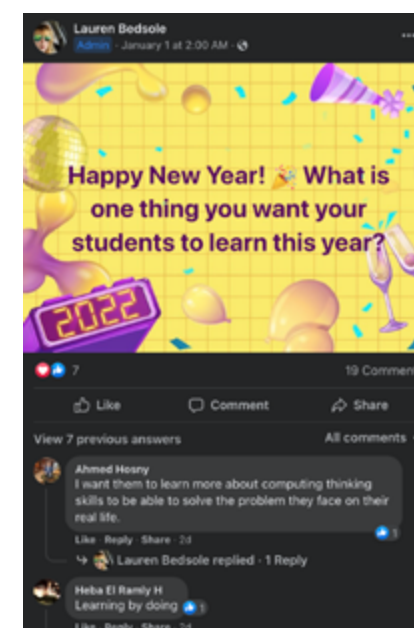
## TIEC's Online Global Community

TIEC's Online Global Community (OGC) is a global educator-driven, TIEC-supported network that currently connects some 500 instructors, faculty, and school leaders with collaboration opportunities as a community of practice. The OGC fosters collaboration beyond the classroom walls and promotes diversity. Within the OGC, members contribute to the community via instructional resources, discussions, reflections, examples of student artifacts, lesson activities, assessments, and perspectives on instruction.

## Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University Curriculum Review

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

TIEC is proud to be a long-standing partner to Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University (PMU) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Since the university was founded, TIEC has been assembling teams of curricular and subject matter experts to collaborate with PUM across a broad array of disciplines and needs. As PMU excels academically and creates more and more degree programs, TIEC's services have shifted to providing recommendations and certifying that widely adopted, internationally recognized standards are met. In FY2021, TIEC completed one review degree program and has several more underway with faculty experts across Texas.



TIEC's Online Global Community now includes nearly  
**500 MEMBERS**

# Membership

TIEC's launch of a paid and expanded membership model last year was risky but successful. TIEC's members are engaged — active in our programs and interested in what we offer. We closed 2021 with 35 Texas university members — four more than we had with unpaid membership. This number includes nine private universities and 26 public. With a goal of affiliate membership growth, we are giving greater prominence and visibility to our tagline: Texas Based, Globally Engaged. In addition, TIEC has four paid international affiliate members.

We hosted an impressive 13 member events last year, all with considerable member participation. Of those, we charged a small fee for a few, and the rest we offered as a benefit of membership. The events were a mix of networking, professional development, and topical discussions for

our members. It also included spotlight events for our affiliates, a niche offering of TIEC.

Membership growth and development are essential to the future of TIEC, and much of that lies in member services. To continue to build out member services, we added a full-time, dedicated membership coordinator to the TIEC team this fall.

With our overall goals for membership, we see three focus areas where we can add value for our member institutions.

- 1. Innovative Internationalization**
- 2. Networking and Peer-to-Peer Collaboration**
- 3. International Development and Diplomacy**

## New TIEC University Members

Rice University	Houston, TX
Texas Tech University Health Science Center	Lubbock, TX
University of Houston	Houston, TX
St. Mary's University	San Antonio, TX
Abilene Christian University	Abilene, TX
Southern Methodist University	Waco, TX
Trinity University	San Antonio, TX
University of the Incarnate Word	San Antonio, TX
Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology*	Kumasi, Ghana
Galala University*	Suez, Egypt

\*Affiliate Members

## Innovative Internationalization

With an enlarged and engaged membership base, TIEC is now able to pursue meaningful consortium-based, collaborative projects and programs. Looking ahead, TIEC is positioned to be a convener through:

- ✓ **Activated partnership development**
- ✓ **Broad exposure to internationalization and engaging member programming, including virtual exchange training and partnerships**
- ✓ **Development of public-private partnerships**

## Networking and Peer-to-Peer Collaboration

TIEC cultivates and enables dialogue and collaboration across the membership. Robust participation in Operating Council committees and our Energy Working Group have shown networking is a tangible benefit for members. Through building strong channels of communication within the network and providing support for faculty and administrators keen on strengthening their internationalization experience and skills, TIEC provides:

- ✓ **Leadership committee opportunities for international officers**
- ✓ **Professional development opportunities for faculty and staff at low cost**
- ✓ **Avenues for faculty and administrators to develop peer mentorship relationships**
- ✓ **Easy relationship-building and channels of communication with international affiliates**

## International Development and Diplomacy

TIEC spends every day considering how to harness the ingenuity of Texas to do good in the world. Through our extensive network of international partners, funders, and leaders, our job is to identify opportunity and bring it to our members. As affiliate membership grows, so does the number of partners Texas members can work with to pursue funded programs and research. TIEC brings opportunity to members to do good in the world by:

- ✓ **Introducing new partners, contacts, experts, and funders to members**
- ✓ **Developing and implementing grant-funded programs with partners**
- ✓ **Convening experts in topical global issues, giving voice and visibility to Texas expertise, and coalescing members together to engage in programmatic opportunities**



## Financial Update

# With TIEC's reserves, we built a new membership model with a low membership fee

### An Opportunity to Invest in Internationalization for Texas

Over the last three decades, TIEC's leadership wisely safeguarded its financial reserves to secure long-term financial stability. TIEC's investment strategy was pivotal in seeing the organization through the turmoil of a global pandemic. TIEC has been fortunate. With an increase in financial reserves during the last year, we were able to operate with more security and infrastructure support. While TIEC's core staff remains small, we head into 2022 with the ability to invest in key positions that ensures our organizational chart matches our mission.

Most importantly, with TIEC's reserves, we built a new membership model with a low membership fee and committed to our new TIEC Fellowship for Afghan Evacuees. The fellowship is the first in TIEC's history that offers matching funds directly to our member universities to increase internationalization on their campus. With TIEC's matching funds, the fellowship gives Texas universities more leeway to do good in

the world while also enriching their campuses with fellows whose professional experience will bring valuable, unique global perspectives. We are deeply heartened to be in the position to activate TIEC's funds to support consortium-wide efforts that invest in internationalization for Texas education.

Regarding grant-funding for TIEC projects, FY2021 followed a record-breaking year for grant funding in FY2020. We found ourselves in the satisfying position of being at programmatic capacity.

### Operations: Lean and Flexible

In FY2021, TIEC also made a key investment with the hiring of Clifton Laren Associates (CLA), a consulting firm that worked alongside our finance team and senior staff to look closely at our business model. The outside perspective and analysis encouraged TIEC's leadership to narrow down our focus areas to become a leaner operation.

Streamlining over the past year allowed TIEC to fully transition our capabilities as a remote workplace. We ended the fiscal year under contract for the sale of TIEC's physical building, our headquarters in Austin's West Campus neighborhood, making flexibility a priority. Before COVID hit, TIEC had invested in laptops, Google Suite, RingCentral for phones, and a number of other web-based programs that allowed staff to work remotely and collaborate more efficiently. In FY2021, we continued upgrading and are successfully paper-free and fully "in the cloud." We will no longer host our own servers, which reduces cost and offers us flexibility when choosing our future workspace.

### Afghan Fellowship

The fellowship gives Texas universities an opportunity to do good in the world while also internationalizing their campuses with students and fellows whose lived experiences will bring valuable, unique global perspectives.

### TIEC Awards and Programs During FY2021

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Support to American-Style Higher Education in Iraq: American University of Iraq, Sulaimani  
*(U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs)*

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University Partnerships Initiative — Flexible Learning: Responding and Reimagining Education in Ghana  
*(U.S. Embassy Accra)*

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English Language Teaching Institute for EFL Instructors in Egypt  
*(U.S. Embassy Cairo)*

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Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University Curriculum Review  
*(Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)*

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University Partnerships Initiative — Flexible Learning: Responding and Reimagining Education in The Philippines  
*(The Philippines Commission on Higher Education)*

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Texas Member Paid Events and Workshops

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TIEC Virtual Exchange Academy

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# TIEC Board of Directors

FY2022



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President Lawrence Schovanec  
CHAIR



Texas A&M International University  
President Pablo Arenaz  
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The University of Texas at Arlington  
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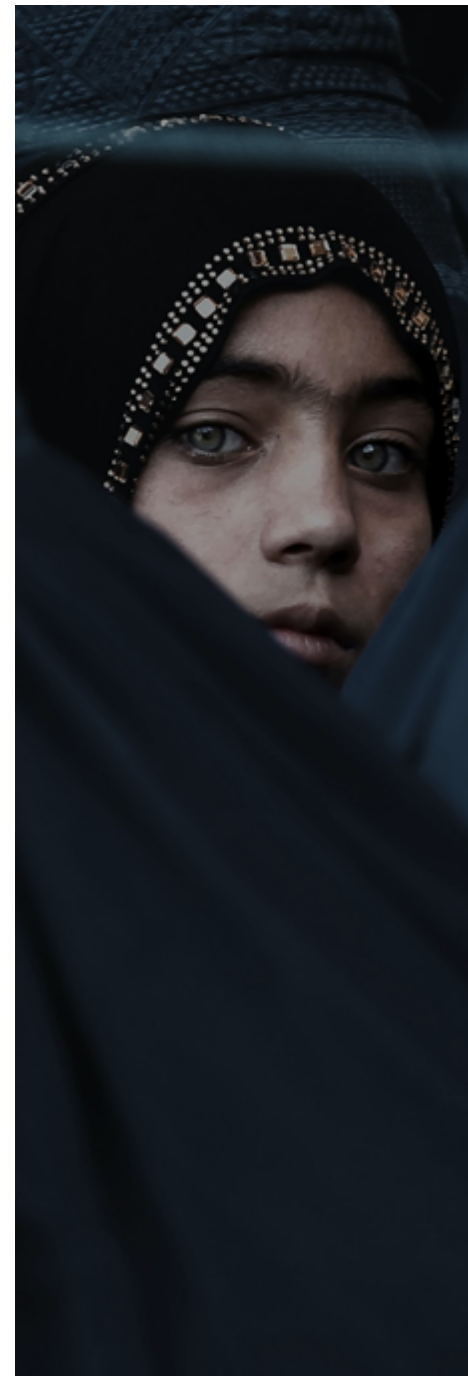
## Looking Ahead



### TIEC Fellowship for Afghan Refugees: An Investment in Strategic Internationalization

At the close of FY2021, we secured funding to launch the TIEC Fellowship for Afghan Evacuees. The fellowship mobilizes resources from TIEC's strategic reserves to provide financial and logistical support to any of our 35 Texas university members who are able to offer evacuees a fellowship or scholarship. While prioritizing high-risk professional women evacuated from Afghanistan, the fellowship is also open to anyone looking for a university experience to start their new lives.

TIEC's model for cooperation on a state-level was featured during a discussion in a meeting led by the White House on Afghan resettlement with the U.S. Secretary of Education as well as part of Welcome.US's national Welcome Campus Network.





# Looking Ahead 2022

TIEC Energy Working Group

## Sharing Texas Ingenuity in Key Focus Areas

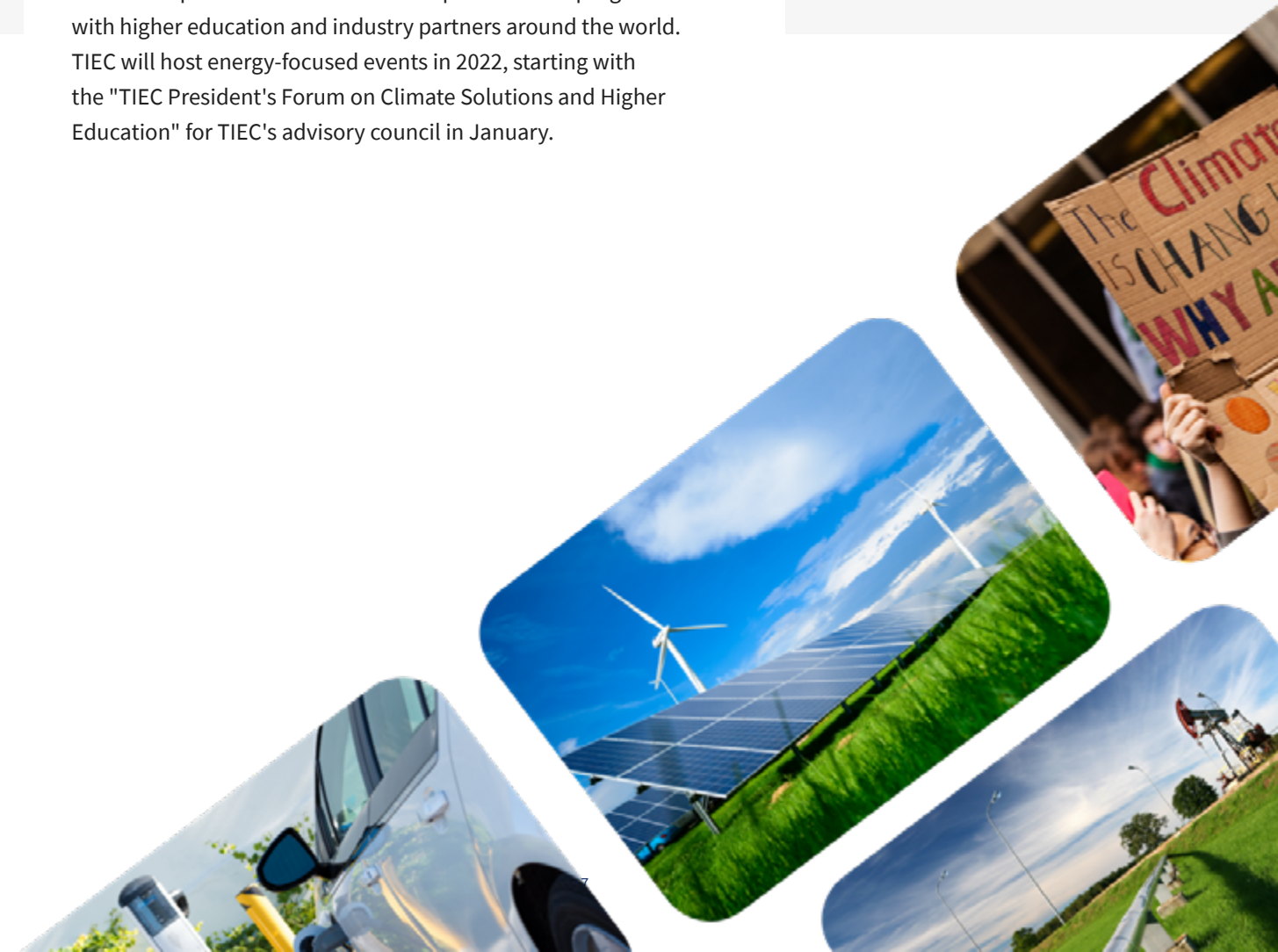
### Energy and Climate Solutions

With a growing consortium, TIEC looks to how we can pool resources across our universities, tapping the areas of expertise Texas is known for worldwide to tackle today's most complex issues. TIEC's newest initiative, the TIEC Energy Working Group, provides a forum for experts and researchers from a variety of Texas's top energy programs to discuss and develop innovative, sustainable solutions to critical energy challenges globally. The goal of this working group is to collaborate with international counterparts to increase collaborative research and development and to share and implement new programs with higher education and industry partners around the world. TIEC will host energy-focused events in 2022, starting with the "TIEC President's Forum on Climate Solutions and Higher Education" for TIEC's advisory council in January.

## Marking the End of an Era

### A New Headquarter for TIEC

As TIEC streamlined and focused our efforts and operations this year, we also significantly downsized our organization's physical footprint. TIEC ended the fiscal year under contract to sell our headquarters building that we had owned for 35 years. So many lives were forever changed in that building. While TIEC today is very different than what it was 35 years ago, we are still changing lives and incredibly excited about our trajectory. Selling our building allows TIEC to modernize our workspace and see the TIEC home base used for a new purpose. While the team is working to find a permanent new space, we are excited by the opportunity to match our physical footprint more closely with our current mission.







# Annual Report 2021

Texas International Education Consortium

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