



ANNUAL REPORT

TEXAS
INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATION
CONSORTIUM
2023



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the CEO	4
Letter from the Board Chair	6
2023: A Year of Impact	8
Individual Impacts	14
Institutional Impacts	22
Global Impacts	34
Financial Update	42
Leadership for FY2024	44



LETTER FROM THE CEO

As a nonprofit CEO, I ground my leadership on mission and impact. However, as my fellow nonprofit CEOs understand, operations can consume every hour of every week, especially when in the process of building or rebuilding an organization. Looking back at my letter from last year's annual report, operations took center stage given COVID-19's disruption to our work. It fills me with gratitude to have fully emerged from the crisis of COVID-19 and returned TIEC to a focus on impacts.

This is my sixth year as CEO of TIEC and it's been a beautiful process to captain this organization through so much fundamental change. I am not referring to COVID-19 here; rather, the programmatic and membership changes that we have made to TIEC since my arrival. In 2023, I saw the fruits of those efforts truly taking hold. TIEC stood forward as a champion and a resource for the establishment of stronger and farther-reaching internationalization programs in Texas. Our throughline in all of this has and will continue to be the UN Sustainable Development goals.

Collaboratively, TIEC worked together with our members to promote the strengths of Texas higher education, we supported each other's successes, and openly shared each other's challenges. From our launch of the Texas International Education Fund, our newly-established *In Fellowship With TIEC* awards, our continued investment in virtual exchange, our ongoing support to partners in Iraq, our implementation of more U.S. public diplomacy programs, and our launch of a health sciences-focused consulting practice, our work positively impacted an impressive number of universities in our consortium.

On the membership side, I am so pleased to see our growth to 50 institutions — that's 10 more since last year's annual report and includes our first community

college. We launched our Preferred Partner program and welcomed nine institutions. Collaboration is our driving force, and we could not be more thrilled to be working in concert with organizations whose work so closely aligns with our mission. We hosted our second joint Texas booth at the NAFSA conference and our first at the Conference of the Americas on International Education.

It is important to reassure all of you that TIEC remains a friend to higher education institutions the world over. Complex crises overseas and political disagreements in the U.S. impose deep challenges in our efforts to create linkages between institutions of learning, teaching, and research around the world. These are complicated waters to navigate, but TIEC commits to being the best resource we can be. In 2024, we hope to be where you are, to be part of the conversations, to share our consortium model, and to strengthen our voice among those who believe that collaboration and cooperation must happen always and never stop.

I hope you enjoy this report. Thank you for your support and stay in close touch.

Warmly,



Robin J. Lerner
President & CEO
Texas International Education Consortium





LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

As we look back on 2023, I am heartened by TIEC's ability to rebound from the pandemic with renewed strength, focusing on growth and member impacts. In 2021, when we launched the TIEC Fellowship for Afghan Evacuees, the board knew that this represented a new era for TIEC. Thanks to this effort, TIEC is now an organization that invests in the ingenuity and innovation of our members to further higher education internationalization in Texas. With the launch of the Texas International Education Fund (TIEF) in 2023, we have formally institutionalized that investment, committing TIEC's own strategic reserves to bolster the efforts of our member institutions.

For TIEC, internationalization of higher education is about more than a single activity: internationalization brings benefits to students, institutions, and the resolution of global challenges. TIEC's efforts facilitate greater know-how and capacity at our member institutions to build strategic internationalization programs that create a profound impact on individuals, institutions, and our larger world. Through collaboration, shared efforts, joint resources, and program management, TIEC is committed to seeing outcomes that make the world a better place.

As TIEC's model for collaboration grows, our focus remains always on ensuring our impacts align back to our goals. We are committed to taking on new challenges for our organization and our members, to reminding the world that the doors of Texas higher education are open, to sharing the ingenuity of our institutions, and welcoming all that global perspectives offer our students and the future for Texas.

TIEC has been and remains committed to enhancing internationalization initiatives of all our members. During this moment of extremely challenged diplomatic relations with conflicts raging around the globe, university partnerships that create lasting relationships that endure over time are what the world needs more than ever.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lawrence Shovanec
President, Texas Tech University
TIEC Board Chair



2023: A YEAR OF IMPACT

With nearly four decades of experience in international education, we at the Texas International Education Consortium appreciate the power of ripple effects — what starts with a single student or faculty member in turn impacts the fabric of a university, and transforms how higher education institutions across our Lone Star State and abroad become essential agents in solving today's greatest challenges.

In 2023, we were proud to see new TIEC ripple effects taking hold. The last few years brought seismic changes — both external and internal — as we met the obstacles brought by the pandemic. We discovered the need for our consortium even more than ever during that time. We then challenged ourselves to redefine how TIEC can — and should — support internationalization efforts in Texas and with our affiliate members. We see the differences we've made

through the individual faculty, staff, and fellows whom we've engaged and supported. We are inspired by the work happening across all of our member institutions. Over the course of 2023, as we grew in membership size, our ability to mobilize our members to address global challenges as a collective consortium advanced by leaps and bounds.

Perhaps our greatest achievement was realizing our dream of investing financial resources in our members. With the launch of the Texas International Education Fund, we began the practice of investing a percentage of our strategic reserves directly back into our members' internationalization efforts. We started small to understand our capacity to provide small grants and funds, and we hope to increase the Fund in 2024. Read on to learn more about this and all of our initiatives.

“We challenged ourselves to redefine how TIEC can — and should — support internationalization efforts in Texas.”

Introducing the Texas International Education Fund



TIEC Leveraging Our Reserves to Support Internationalization in Texas Higher Education

In 2023, we proudly established the **Texas International Education Fund (TIEF)**, the realization of a new role for TIEC that began with the 2021 TIEC Fellowship for Afghan Evacuees. Through TIEF, we invest directly in new ideas and efforts that will expand international opportunities for Texas students and institutions that, we hope, will ultimately improve the world. TIEF was born out of the belief that TIEC is only as effective as the opportunity it brings to its members, and we are over the moon to support many of the exceptional ideas proposed for **our inaugural COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning), Study Abroad Development and Strategic Internationalization** grants for 2023. Because every effort we undertake should be shareable across our membership, each awardee commits to sharing their models and outcomes with the TIEC community and serving as a resource for other members who seek to implement their model.

We built TIEF on the shoulders of the **TIEC Fellowship for Afghan Evacuees**, where we helped find Texas university placements for talented students and professionals who found themselves fleeing to the United States with little to no advance notice due

to the Taliban's return to authority in Afghanistan. The Fellowship launched in 2021, with the placements made in 2022 and their programs plus TIEC support continuing into 2023.

The Fellowship helped us solidify some of the best of what Texas universities could do when working together as a consortium: from the **incredible senior international officers, department chairs, and deans** who moved mountains — and red tape — to provide space for our fellows; to TIEC staff who worked hours to coordinate applicants and match them with member universities; and finally, the TIEC Board of Directors who was willing to take a chance on **a new role for TIEC as a direct funder for internationalizing Texas higher education.**

The Fellowship promoted immediate action to mobilize our strategic reserves towards a specific goal and was a leap of faith on behalf of our board that we could turn the vision into reality. Once we had those mechanisms for TIEC direct funding, we were then ready to institutionalize our support beyond an emergency response. While the program has evolved, we retain a close connection to our Fellows.

TIEF by the numbers:

9 Hispanic-Serving Institutions

2 Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCU)

13 Public Institutions

4 Private Institutions

6 R-1 Institutions (TX)

9 STEM-Based Projects

Study Abroad Development and COIL Grant Awards

Bringing the World to the Classroom

Innovative, global experiences for students most often starts with a passionate individual faculty or staff member but requires financial resources to make it a reality. TIEC is supporting real-world study abroad programs for our Texas members and facilitating new virtual international collaborations for undergraduate and graduate students. In our inaugural year, together the TIEF Study Abroad Development Grant and the TIEF COIL Grant will support 19 individual projects.

*In 2023, TIEF awarded **\$143,000** in grant funding for **22 initiatives** across all of our grants.*

Spotlight: Dr. Ervin James, Paul Quinn College

Through TIEC's Study Abroad Development Grant, faculty member Dr. Ervin James at Paul Quinn College is opening opportunities to Pell Grant-dependent students at the college, offering them a chance to explore the enduring legacy of slavery through a comparative study in the Dominican Republic and the United States. This innovative program will immerse students in language, culture, and history, aligning with the university's goal to create culturally aware, global citizens. Dr. James's leadership underscores Paul Quinn College's commitment to internationalizing its curriculum and ensuring sustainable support for enriching study abroad experiences.

Spotlight: University of North Texas, Ajman University and Hussein Technical University

In an impressive model of three-way COIL for engineering students, the University of North Texas and TIEC affiliate member, Ajman University are utilizing TIEF's COIL grant to additionally partner up with Al Hussein Technical University in Jordan to provide undergraduate engineering students with invaluable global experiences, challenging them to solve real-world complex problems within a global context. Students will collaborate effectively across international boundaries, drawing upon

their collective knowledge and skills to design innovative engineering solutions. By joining hands, each university is offering its students the skills and perspectives needed to excel in an interconnected and culturally diverse world.

Spotlight: Asian University for Women and University of North Texas

This new TIEF COIL grant was formed out of the desire for larger-scale collaboration between TIEC affiliate member, the Asian University for Women (AUW) and the University of North Texas (UNT) to support AUW's new Master of Science in Apparel and Retail Management. Both institutions have supported female students from Afghanistan and found a mission-oriented meeting of the minds. AUW supports low-income women students to gain higher education and relevant career preparation. As a global sourcing hub for exporting apparel to more than 150 countries, AUW is aiming to build greater management talent for women in Bangladesh, and UNT is supporting this mission. Through TIEF, faculty in Bangladesh and North Texas jointly bring their students new expertise in the full spectrum of global processes, from conceptualization to consumer delivery. The curriculum explores global sourcing practices within the textile and apparel industries, emphasizing sustainability.



TIEC'S PHILOSOPHY ON INTERNATIONALIZATION

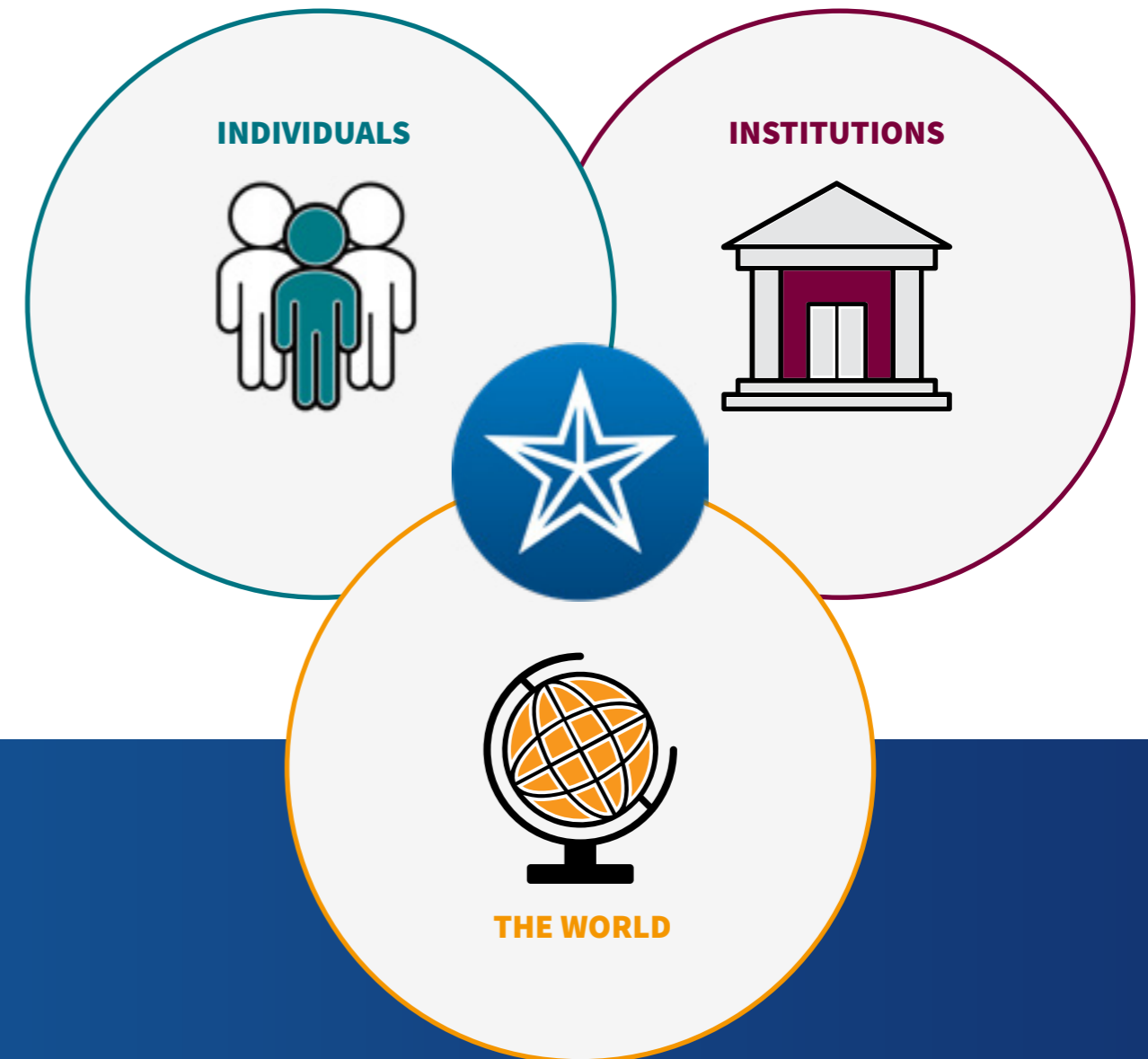
TIEC operates with a philosophy that internationalization activities are just that — activities. The activities are the gateway, not the end goals, and we should treat them that way. When students spend time immersed in different cultures, the hope is that such an endeavor will, for example, allow them to gain a new perspective on an old problem for which they take action to solve, to study local innovations, to teach them new ways of communicating, and to enable them to realize their role in global issues.

We believe that higher education institutions must be clear-minded about their purpose for internationalization and their intended beneficiaries. Do we seek to benefit our students? Our faculty? Our institution? Our world? Do we seek to help solve global challenges? Do we seek to develop critical thinkers with empathy and firsthand experience, prepared for a career on an interconnected planet? Because resources are always limited, we must know the right type and level of resources to devote to our internationalization strategy. We can only know that by placing the beneficiary at the center of our strategy and seeking to understand and overcome the obstacles in their way.

At TIEC, we challenge ourselves to always consider the purpose of our activities and the beneficiaries of them. We ground ourselves in the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and aim to contribute to solving these global challenges through our international education activities.

“We really value our membership in TIEC. The networking is invaluable. And with the new TIEF grants, and growing interest from our senior academic colleagues at the University of Houston (UH), TIEC is now offering really concrete and practical ways to advance and support our internationalization at UH.”

— **Amb.(Ret'd) Michael Pelletier, Founding Executive Director, Institute for Global Engagement, University of Houston**





106 exchange visitors
hosted at TIEC-designated
universities



248 students will benefit
from virtual exchange as
part of TIEC's Chris Stevens
Initiative program



67 Texas faculty served on
a TIEC grant or consulting
project in 2023

INDIVIDUALS

The Heart of TIEC's Work

Over nearly four decades in international education, TIEC focused on bringing benefit to individual students and faculty through internationalization. While TIEC carries out programs for students, TIEC's most typical method is to work through faculty. We view faculty members as the key multipliers across our campuses: helping individual students gain a global perspective on their studies and future work that is vital to preparing a workforce with the interest and aptitude to help resolve global challenges. In 2023, we were honored **to support and amplify** their efforts and be a part of the difference they are making on campuses here and around the world **in new and more deliberate ways**.

With the creation of the **Texas International Education Fund**, we offered direct financial support to seed student-centered projects and collaborations within our consortium, including new study abroad programs aimed at underrepresented student-travelers, new virtual exchange curricula to expand the number of students with access to a global program, and new institutional efforts to reach students whose curricula are traditionally less flexible for international programs. Our **TIEC Afghan Fellows** continue to inspire us with their resilience and the unique perspectives each brings to our Texas campuses. It is our hope that these unique global voices will provide new points of reference and inspire individual students and faculty on their host campuses.

Through the inaugural **In Fellowship With TIEC Awards**, we formally recognized and amplified the individuals who led the effort to make space on their campuses for these unique and vital voices. As TIEC understands well that faculty are the gateway to reaching students and initiating innovative research, we reached our goal of incorporating new Texas faculty into our global programs. While TIEC has long tapped into Texas's diverse pool of expert faculty and instructors, we were pleased to expand more profoundly into health sciences, renewable energy, and business faculty engagement.

Finally, it must be noted that **our investment in virtual exchange** or "COIL", as it is also known, is TIEC's way of globalizing curriculum on a large scale. We have made an institutional commitment to growing the practice of virtual exchange in Texas, as it is a low-cost, high-impact method of bringing global perspectives, global issues, and intercultural competencies into students' mainstream learning.





TIEC AFGHAN FELLOWS

The TIEC Fellowship for Afghan Evacuees provided a soft landing and a strong start to high-risk evacuees. Many of TIEC's fellows keep a minimal public profile out of concern for their families back home. Here, we are spotlighting three of our fellows who have chosen to have a higher profile in the United States. When Roshan Mashal, Saleha Soadat and Rabia Behgaam heard that the Taliban was entering Kabul, they never imagined that their beloved capital would fall so quickly. For each of them, the decision to evacuate had to be made in a split second as the airport would soon close and their lives would be severely endangered by staying. Each one, with her own unique story and circumstances, knew that her only hope for a safe future was to leave. From TIEC's perspective, we were offered an opportunity to globalize our Texas campuses with their incredible voices and those of our other fellows. We are grateful to reflect on these three incredible women's journeys.

Spotlight: Roshan Mashal, The University of Texas at Arlington

When Roshan Mashal packed up the office of the Afghan Women's Network – quickly hiding all the documents of the women that her organization had served for years, frantically removing the photos of clients that adorned every floor of their building, she didn't know what the future held for the women her organization had helped or for her own family and children. Today, she serves as a fellow in The University of Texas at Arlington's Women's and Gender Studies program in the College of Liberal Arts, and leads the RUG Project, which documents the oral histories of the women of Afghanistan who fled the Taliban regime. Her three children, also supported by TIEC, are thriving at UTA in the College of Business, undergraduate computer science studies, and UTA's College of Nursing and Health Innovation. Last year, she was recognized by Refugees International with an Advocacy Award for Exceptional Service, alongside Secretary Hillary Clinton.

Spotlight: Saleha Soadat, Texas Tech University

When Kabul fell to the Taliban, Saleha was a working journalist for Tolo TV. She reported on women's issues, and that was not going to be popular with the new regime. She carried only a backpack, walking hours to the airport and managing to get on one of the last flights out. Today, Saleha is working towards her master's at Texas Tech University's College of

Media & Communication and is the recipient of the Excellence in International Journalism and Human Rights Award, which the college presents to two international female journalists each year. Her time is split between her master's thesis and the draft of a book on the portrayal of women in Afghan media.

The TTU College of Media and Communication organizes a Graduate Student Research Symposium and Excellence in International Journalism Awards each year. With Saleha's help, the 2024 symposium will include a reunion of 10-12 Afghan female journalists who were airlifted out of Afghanistan by the U.S. military in 2021. TTU will host the journalists on campus for two days.

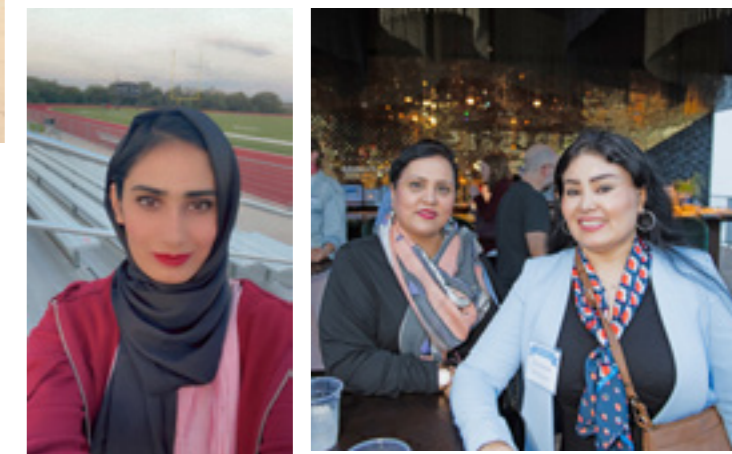
Spotlight: Rabia Behgaam, The University of Texas at San Antonio

In addition to a full-time job in an engineering firm, Rabia was a volunteer in Kabul, going door-to-door to inform women on their right to vote. She awoke on the day the city fell to hundreds of text messages, urging her to get to the airport in order to evacuate the city and begin her journey to the United States. A little over two years later, Rabia is pursuing her MBA at The University of Texas San Antonio's Carlos Alvarez College of Business. She remains an advocate for women and girls of Afghanistan, and is working on a pilot program for an art therapy program for Afghan women and girls living in the United States who are dealing with trauma and PTSD.



**12 Afghan fellows
were placed at 5 Texas
institutions**

“Texas Tech is very lucky to have Saleha,” says Dr. Lyombe Eko, her thesis advisor and William S. Morris Professor in Innovation, Journalism and Information at the college.





IN FELLOWSHIP WITH TIEC AWARDS

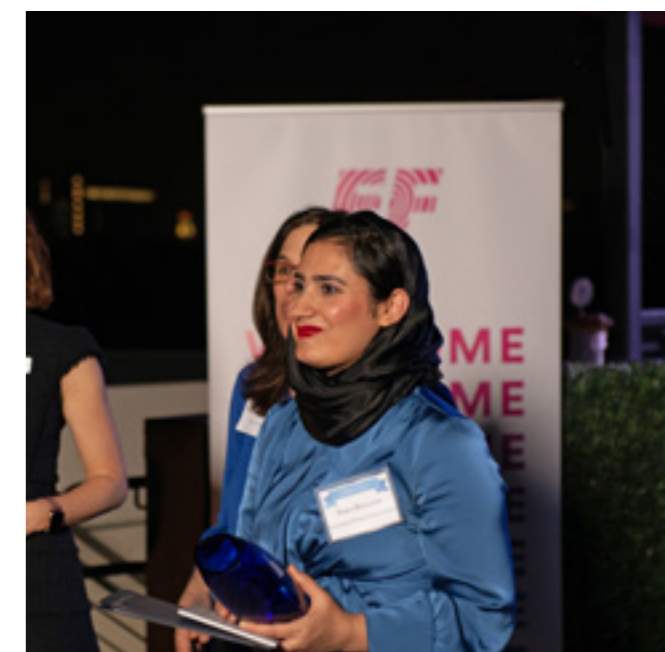
In 2023, we felt it was time to celebrate those within our consortium making exemplary contributions to the field of internationalization. With our *In Fellowship with TIEC* Awards, TIEC recognized efforts that support TIEC's most core values over these categories:

1. Global Voices on Campus
2. Research for Greater Understanding
3. Doing Good in the World

TIEC hosted a celebratory evening in Austin on the eve of International Women's Day, March 7, 2023. As so many of our Afghan fellows are women, and with so many of the engines behind the efforts that garnered awards for our institutions also women — we felt it was fitting. We gathered at Inn Cahoots in Austin, a woman-owned business and strong supporter of international education to recognize great efforts across Texas.



With thanks to the *In Fellowship With TIEC* sponsors:





PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

TIEC works programmatically to support the development of individuals' language, research and cultural competencies. At times, this means supporting K-12 students to gain stronger internationalization skills before their higher education journey, other times we support faculty development to contribute to global academic research.

The Colombia - Friends of Fulbright Advance Academic Skills for English Training: Supporting the Global Research Agenda

The imperative to publish research is universal for faculty around the globe so TIEC was thrilled to be a partner to the Colombia Friends of Fulbright to build this individual capacity for 15 senior faculty members and researchers from higher education institutions in Colombia. The program prepared faculty to publish their research in English language publications with training in advanced academic English writing, which is essential to their individual profiles and for the reputational advancement of their institutions.

Mishima English Exchange (Japan)

Over the summer, TIEC hosted one of its legacy programs for the first time since 2019. Forty-five high school students from Mishima, Japan traveled to Austin for a two-week study tour during which they took English as a Second Language courses administered by Texas Global at The University of Texas Austin. We were pleased to resume the program that has been ongoing yearly since 2000 after a hiatus due to the pandemic years during 2020-2022. The exchange supports TIEC's legacy to help develop a pipeline of strong applicants to Texas higher education institutions with English language and intercultural skills that meet the standards of our universities and is an example of a collaboration with our member university, The University of Texas at Austin.

Austin Sister Cities Exchange with Oita (Japan)

In February, TIEC hosted an Austin Sister Cities program that connected middle school students from sister city Oita in Japan with middle/high school students in Texas. We were honored to support a long-time partner and the exchange highlights our commitment to being a strong member of the internationalization community in Austin and the public diplomacy value of creating connections between Texas and Japanese youth.





INSTITUTIONS

The Backbone of TIEC

In 2023, we saw the impacts of TIEC's efforts on both our member universities and our partner organizations and institutions overseas. Whether this was amplifying the efforts of our members' international offices through our newly launched TIEF internationalization grants, introducing formal pathways for aligned partner organizations to get involved with our consortium, or new models like TIEC developing specialized professional development programs that open doors to members engaging in new ways abroad, we are heartened to see our members and partners benefit at the institutional level from our work together.



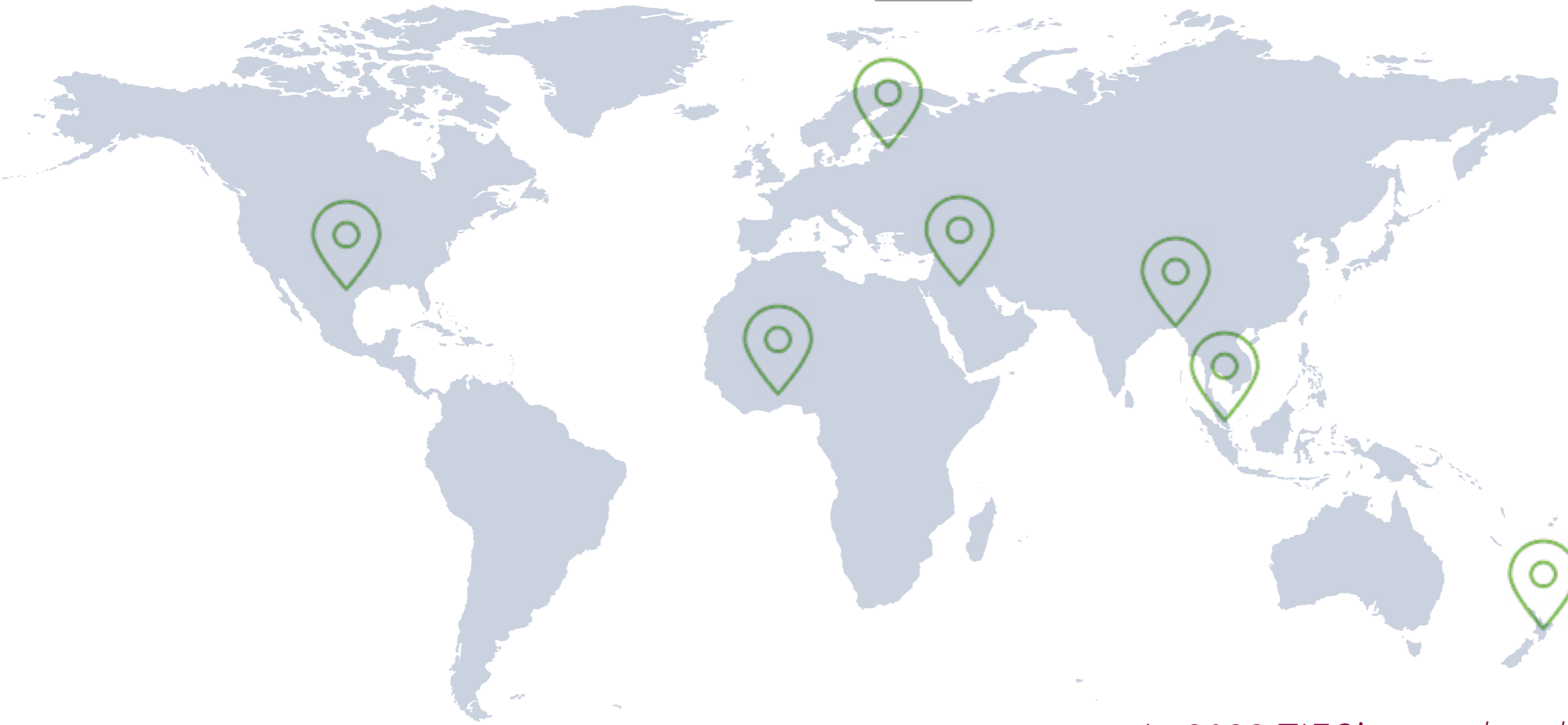
37 Texas Members,
including first-ever
community college



13 Affiliate members in
11 countries across **SIX**
geographic regions



26 member events over
the 2023 calendar year
with an average of **36**
attendees per event



50
Institutions
Strong
in 2023

MEMBERSHIP

Growing The Consortium While Remaining Close Knit

At TIEC, we believe we are stronger when we collaborate together on the international stage and that, collectively, we save valuable resources and bring forth greater internationalization to our campuses. As we reflect on 2023, it's gratifying to see that vision bringing tangible impacts to our members.

In 2023, our consortium grew, totaling 50 institutions: 37 members in Texas and 13 affiliate members, spread across 11 countries and six geographical regions. Our approach hasn't changed, however, even as we grow in size: we work directly with our members, get to know them, and find opportunities based on their institutional strategies, and their capabilities.

Over the past year, we were proud to help members build their know-how; attract new partners on behalf of their institutions to save them time and funds; serve as J-1 sponsors for those who need the support; and seek funding opportunities on behalf of our members to build academic partnerships.

In 2023 TIEC's membership evolved in two significant ways...

1 First, we welcomed Alamo Colleges District into our Texas membership, thanks to the decision by TIEC's Board of Directors to welcome community colleges into our consortium. Alamo Colleges District is the largest college system in South Texas, boasts a network of five community colleges, and serves over 90,000 students. Recognizing the global interest in workforce development initiatives and programs, extending membership to Texas community colleges was a key development for TIEC and builds on making TIEC membership a wider circle of higher education institutions that match the needs and interests of our international partners. Our decision was driven by the resounding feedback from our international partners expressing a keen interest in collaborating with community colleges.

2 Second, our affiliate membership grew to include six geographical regions, including Europe, the Pacific Islands, Southeast Asia and South Asia. We are so thrilled to see the interest in collaboration with Texas reaching so far. We see this as proof that our consortium model serves to attract new members. As stated earlier, as we grow in size and geographic representation, we commit to serving all of our members with the same level of attention and support.





Strategic Internationalization Grant

Supporting University-Wide Internationalization Efforts

Our Strategic Internationalization Grant supports new institutional efforts that will build greater campus internationalization efforts over time. Our 2023 awardees were Stephen F. Austin State University, Prairie View A&M University, and The University of Texas at Dallas. We measured proposals based on how closely the proposal serves the institution's challenges in growing internationalization, their scalability and their ability to be modeled in other member institutions.

Spotlight: TIEF Strategic Internationalization Grant Winner Stephen F. Austin State University

Collaborating with Riga Technical University in Latvia, Stephen F. Austin State University (SFASU) aims to radically increase STEM student participation in study abroad programs through their TIEF grant. By training six new study abroad advisors and fostering more faculty-led programs, this visionary effort prioritizes frequent advising and sustainable program development, empowering SFASU to guide students effectively, integrating study abroad into their academic journeys.

Spotlight: TIEF Strategic Internationalization Grant Winner Prairie View A & M University

TIEF will support Prairie View A & M University's (PVAMU) innovative B-GLOBAL program - Broadening Global Learning Opportunities, Building Academic Leaders.

With TIEF funds, PVAMU will integrate the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) into STEM courses across the curriculum and increase opportunities for students in these majors to participate in high-impact global learning opportunities like study abroad, COIL, and globally-focused undergraduate research.

Spotlight: TIEF Strategic Internationalization Grant Winner The University of Texas at Dallas

With TIEF support, The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) is embarking on a transformative initiative known as the Global Scholars Certificate Program (GSCP). With a keen focus on international perspectives within STEM curricula, the GSCP will equip students with critical thinking skills and a broader understanding of their disciplines. As part of the GSCP, UT Dallas students will experience a curriculum review aimed at identifying courses that incorporate international perspectives within STEM disciplines. These globally aligned courses will broaden students' understanding of their respective fields and enhance their problem-solving skills through a global lens.



Opening Doors for New Institutional Collaborations

The TIEC Affiliate Membership was created in 2021 with the hope that we could provide qualified universities outside the U.S. with a direct, meaningful way to connect with the vast network of higher education institutions across the state of Texas. In 2023, we are honored to see those connections blossoming into real-life collaborations and the start of new partnerships.

2023 also saw the beginning of new third-party collaborations. TIEC hopes to see more innovative ways to create linkages to Texas higher education in the coming year.

Spotlight: Texas Woman's University and Dar Al-Hekma University

The connections formed through TIEC membership have sparked discussions between Texas Woman's University and Dar Al-Hekma University, paving the way for a potential collaboration on a COIL program. Both institutions share the distinction of being universities primarily for women, each dedicated to fostering an environment of empowerment and academic excellence for women. This collaboration would signify a convergence of their missions but also leverage their strengths to create an impactful educational experience for their students.

Spotlight: Riga Business School's Texas Visit

In September 2023, delegates from Riga Business School, TIEC's first European affiliate member, made a significant journey to Texas.

They visited campuses and met with representatives from TIEC member institutions: the University of Houston, The University of Texas at Arlington, the University of North Texas, and The University of Texas at Dallas. This TIEC-facilitated visit was a strategic endeavor to cultivate collaborative avenues, sparking dialogues that sought innovative international education partnerships.

Spotlight: The University of Texas at Dallas and King Abdullah University of Science and Technology

King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) recently paid a visit to the University of Texas at Dallas, initiating a promising exchange. Looking forward, a representative from the University of Texas at Dallas is slated to visit KAUST in 2024. This upcoming visit aims to delve deeper into potential collaborations and partnerships, fostering a reciprocal exploration of ideas and opportunities between the two esteemed institutions.





Partnerships

Supporting New Partnerships through the Preferred Partner Network

At TIEC, we believe working through our consortium serves to multiply the abilities of any one of our member universities. One way we do that is by helping our universities identify potential partners from among pre-identified organizations and institutions. In 2023, we were proud to establish the Preferred Partner Network, creating a formal structure for like-minded organizations who wish to collaborate with our universities.

Over the summer, TIEC welcomed nine organizations to the TIEC family:

- + NASH
- + The Presidents' Alliance
- + Partners of the Americas
- + AMPEI (Mexico)
- + Colombia Challenge Your Knowledge
- + Education New Zealand
- + Institute for Study Abroad
- + Diversity Abroad
- + International Organization for Higher Education



“

TIEC is a great resource for collaborative projects and funding opportunities that I otherwise would have not known about. We have received funding that we hope will launch us into further projects.”

— Ms. Heather Catton, Director of International Programs,
Stephen F. Austin State University



2023 MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

Texas Members

Abilene Christian University
 Alamo Colleges District
 Angelo State University
 Baylor University
 Dallas Baptist University
 Lamar University
 Midwestern State University
 Paul Quinn College
 Prairie View A&M University
 Sam Houston State University
 St. Edward's University
 Stephen F. Austin State University
 Tarleton State University
 Texas A&M International University
 Texas A&M University
 Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
 Texas A&M University-Kingsville
 Texas A&M University-Texarkana
 Texas State University
 Texas Tech University
 Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
 Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso
 Texas Woman's University
 The University of Texas at Arlington
 The University of Texas at Austin
 The University of Texas at Dallas
 The University of Texas at El Paso
 The University of Texas at San Antonio
 The University of Texas at Tyler
 The University of Texas Permian Basin
 The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
 Trinity University
 University of Houston
 University of Houston-Clear Lake
 University of North Texas
 University of North Texas at Dallas
 University of the Incarnate Word

Affiliate Members

Ajman University (United Arab Emirates)
 Asian University for Women (Bangladesh)
 Badr University in Cairo (Egypt)
 Dar Al-Hekma University (Saudi Arabia)
 King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (Saudi Arabia)
 Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (Ghana)
 Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University (Saudi Arabia)
 Riga Business School (Latvia)
 Southern University College, Malaysia (Malaysia)
 The American University of Beirut (Lebanon)
 The American University in Cairo (Egypt)
 The American University of Iraq Sulaimani (Iraq)
 University of Waikato (New Zealand)

“Badr University Cairo's affiliation with TIEC has facilitated remarkable collaboration, including the thorough review of our nursing program, a successful series of workshops, and a prestigious Fulbright fellowship focused on advancing simulation development.”

— Dr. Cheherezade Ghazi,
 School of Nursing Dean, Badr
 University, Cairo

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

To make an impact on an institution, TIEC's focus begins with expanding capacity. Through our J-1 Visa Services Program, we help expand the number of Texas higher education institutions able to host Exchange Visitors on their campuses. In 2023, we also maintained our legacy of programs that bolster the capacity of secondary institutions abroad, which in turn expands the number of students and institutions ready to engage with our Texas members.

J-1 Visa Services Program

TIEC has been a longstanding sponsor of J-1 visas for academic purposes. This is a pillar of our mission to facilitate global voices on Texas campuses. We understand the responsibility inherent in serving as a sponsor, and we know that our willingness to serve in this capacity ensures that universities with small programs can host global scholars on



campus. Through TIEC's J-1 Visa Services Program, we sponsored 106 Exchange Visitors across 11 of our 21 designated host universities. We anticipate another 55 Exchange Visitor's to join our hosts in 2024. With an investment in human capacity at TIEC, we are expanding, adding a new designated host university, and growing our active placement program.

Morocco - Delegation Study Tour

TIEC led the “Morocco & Texas K-12 Tour,” a five-day program in October that aimed to enhance the abilities of overseas educators, practitioners, and administrators through school visits and leadership discussions in facilitating instructional best practices, innovative school models, and exploring potential collaborations. Nine participants joined the tour and visited four Independent School Districts in Texas to learn about curriculum development and potential partnership opportunities.



We're focused on the

UNITED NATIONS

Sustainable Development Goals



GLOBAL IMPACTS

Addressing Worldwide Challenges Together

As we look back at 2023, we take stock of our impact on some major global challenges, as guided by the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2023, we focused on three main areas:

- + Improving Access to Quality Healthcare Worldwide
- + Addressing Climate Change and Building Toward a Responsible, Equitable Energy Transition
- + Scalable, Quality Higher Education Solutions





HEALTHCARE

UN Sustainable Development Goal #3

Texas is home to world-renowned medical schools and world-class healthcare systems. As a large and diverse state, we are also familiar with the challenges of meeting the growing demands of rural and urban populations' healthcare needs. As a higher education consortium, TIEC is frequently asked for connections to experts in health sciences, and for support in establishing new health-focused educational programs around the world. When our longtime friends and first affiliate member, Prince Mohammed bin Fahd University (PMU), came to us with a request to work alongside them to plan their new teaching hospital, we knew the time was right to grow TIEC's capacity to meet the challenge.

Under the direction of TIEC's Chief of Operations and Project Director, Heather Farmakis, PhD, TIEC has tapped a wealth of proficiency from across Texas medical schools and healthcare systems, including eight experts representing four Texas member universities, and the industry-leading private healthcare sector across Texas. This team is spending countless hours working alongside PMU counterparts

to plan for every aspect of the new hospital program. When realized, the hospital will provide needed healthcare for a growing community that currently lacks a local facility. It will also offer PMU's future medical students the chance to train close to home, serving the population in their immediate vicinity, in a facility that is designed to serve their learning needs. Over time, this hospital will grow to serve as an international destination for individuals from around the region, as well.

The hospital project builds on nearly two decades of collaboration between PMU and TIEC. The two institutions began cooperation some 17 years ago when the establishment of PMU was a new initiative that needed an academic partner. Through TIEC's academic consulting services, large teams of Texas faculty and administrators worked side by side with peers in Al Khobar to plan and develop every aspect of the then-new university. PMU continued to seek collaboration with TIEC after its establishment and became TIEC's first affiliate member in 2021.

TIEC created **6** Expert Working Groups and a **3**-Member Hospital Model Advisory Board



4 Texas Member Universities are represented in TIEC's hospital project



8 Texas expert consultants are a part of TIEC's hospital project with PMU





RENEWABLE ENERGY

UN Sustainable Goal #7

Texas universities house world-class multidisciplinary expertise and research across the entire spectrum of energy. Located at the epicenter of the U.S. energy industry, TIEC members have long histories of research and academic programs on energy resource production and power systems, and more recently, on renewables, integration, data sciences for energy, and smart grids. They are also leaders in research commercialization.

In 2023, TIEC is proud to see the seeds of our efforts to connect Texas renewable energy experts from our member universities with opportunities around the world growing into partnerships and collaborations poised to help researchers and students build our global capacity for renewable energy solutions. We are building on what we learned through TIEC's participation in The 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) in 2022 and TIEC's Egypt University Partnerships Accelerator program with the U.S. Department of State to create new partnerships with Texas institutions in Saudi Arabia and begin work in South Africa.



Spotlight: Educational Partnerships to Assist a Just Energy Transition in South Africa

We were honored to begin work on a new partnership with the U.S. Embassy Pretoria and Universities South Africa (USAF) last fall that will address the need for greater workforce development in South Africa to adapt to evolving energy production opportunities. This program has equal application in Texas as Texas's reliance on renewable energy continues to scale rapidly. The economic and social impact of a rapid energy transition on vulnerable and marginalized communities exists in both environments. This project also aims to promote U.S.-South Africa faculty and administrators exchanges that enable societies in both countries to look around the corner at the challenges of tomorrow — specifically regarding the need for both universities and vocational programs to adequately prepare for the needs of a green energy economy.

A total of 40 participants composed of cross-disciplinary faculty and administrators, government and civil society representatives from Texas International Education Consortium institutions and partners, Universities South Africa institutions(USAF), and South African Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions will be a part of the project. This exchange program will share best practices and expertise in curriculum development and alignment with renewable energy workforce needs, understand the imperative for the development of assessment tools for policymakers, and share public-private partnership models in the areas of renewable energy innovation and commercialization and workforce and skills development.

Spotlight: Training a New Generation of Public Policy Experts in Renewable Energy for The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

In 2023, TIEC began work with the King Abdullah Petroleum Science and Research Center (KAPSARC) to provide an academic partner for their new certificate in renewable energy. TIEC is working with the Texas A&M

University Energy Institute for this inaugural program and will continue to seek out new collaborations within the TIEC consortium. The Energy Policy Executive Leadership Certificate Program introduces entry-level professionals and mid-level managers within the public and private sectors of the Saudi Energy ecosystem to the in-depth process of public policy development, leadership strategy, and professional training.

The collaboration between TIEC and KAPSARC serves as a compelling example of the positive impact TIEC can have on an institution's educational endeavors. By developing specialized professional development programs, such as the Energy Policy Executive Leadership Certificate Program, and assisting in faculty recruitment, this partnership not only enhances educational offerings but also promotes professional development and capacity building. This collaboration underscores how TIEC's involvement can elevate educational initiatives, providing institutions with the tools and expertise needed to make a lasting impact on their students and society.





QUALITY EDUCATION

UN Sustainable Development Goal #4

Core to TIEC's mission through the years is our commitment to expanding access to quality education worldwide. Through both grants and TIEC's educational consulting services, we work to share not only the individual expertise of faculty and researchers throughout our state but also the institutional know-how to establish and successfully implement many of the degree programs and areas of study that make so many of our consortium members leaders in their academic fields.

In 2023, much of our work focused on expanding access to quality education in tough environments for students, in particular in Iraq. In response to the very real challenge of Iraqi youth to find decent work and well-paying jobs, we committed to supporting educational institutions in Iraq where conditions continue to be challenging from security and economic perspectives.

With the addition of The American University of Iraq in Sulaimani (AUIS) as a TIEC affiliate member, we are gratified to play an ongoing partnership role to strengthen the offering of quality education by this mission-oriented institution. Moreover, TIEC has supported the Baghdad Business School as it grows as an institution devoted to preparing Iraqi youth with practical skills to gain quality employment. With the launch of our current Chris Stevens Virtual Exchange Initiative project, BEVEX, we continue our focus on linkages with Iraqi higher education.

The American University of Iraq Sulaimani Capacity-Building Project: Final Chapters (Iraq)

TIEC wrapped our multi-year capacity-building project with the American University of Iraq, Sulaimani (AUIS) in June. Throughout this nearly three-year project, we have engaged over 15 Texas faculty from across 13

institutions. TIEC supported AUIS's improved capacity to conduct internal course reviews, delivered numerous workshops, prepared faculty to continue to work collaboratively, helped AUIS stabilize their course drop rates, and developed two research papers that have been submitted for publication. The project met the initial goals of the collaboration by empowering AUIS with the tools to refine its academic programs and meet regional and international labor-market needs and global accreditation requirements while promoting a gender-inclusive and diverse curriculum within the university.

Baghdad Business School: Preparing Iraqi Youth For Private Sector Employment (Iraq)

TIEC implemented a partnership with the Baghdad Business School (BBS), a new private business college in Iraq, to prepare Iraqi youth to start their own businesses or find jobs in the private sector. The two organizations were awarded a two-year grant from the U.S. Department of State to increase the institutional capacity of BBS and strengthen its English language programs. TIEC has revised BBS's English as a Foreign Language curriculum and is training faculty on modern teaching methodologies. TIEC recruited faculty from the University of Texas at Austin to support these efforts, as well as leveraged in-house staff expertise. TIEC worked with BBS to strengthen the curriculum, train teachers in modern pedagogy, and provide access to new language learning tools. The partnership enables BBS to strengthen its internal policies and structures so it can expand its programming to support a larger number of students with the necessary job skills.

6 Iraqi faculty members trained in modern pedagogies of EFL through 15 workshops as part of TIEC's partnership with BBS



TIEC implemented programs with organizations in 7 countries during 2023



TIEC reviewed and provided recommendations for 12 degree programs and 199 courses over the span of the 3-year AUIS Capacity Building Project



Spotlight: J. Christopher Stevens Virtual Exchange Initiative, Business and Entrepreneurship Virtual Exchange Program

TIEC was honored to receive our second Chris Stevens Virtual Exchange grant, a U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs program administered by the Aspen Institute. TIEC's Business & Entrepreneurship Virtual Exchange connects faculty from universities in Iraq and Texas through virtual exchange, preparing them to implement project-based virtual exchanges on a variety of business and entrepreneurship topics in their courses that will develop key academic skills and cultural competencies for students who may not have other opportunities to garner global competencies. Understanding the very high demand for global skills in the business world, this program responds to those needs in Texas and Iraq. The program incorporated AUIS, Baghdad Business School, as well as The University of Texas Rio Grand Valley and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, two Texas Hispanic-Serving institutions.



Baghdad Business School is very pleased to partner with TIEC through this project. Strengthening our English language curriculum and teaching capabilities will enable more Iraqi youth to improve their language skills, which leads directly to job opportunities in the private sector. Enhancing our institutional capacity will allow BBS to grow and prepare more Iraqi youth for their careers."

- Christine Van Den Toorn, Director, Baghdad Business School

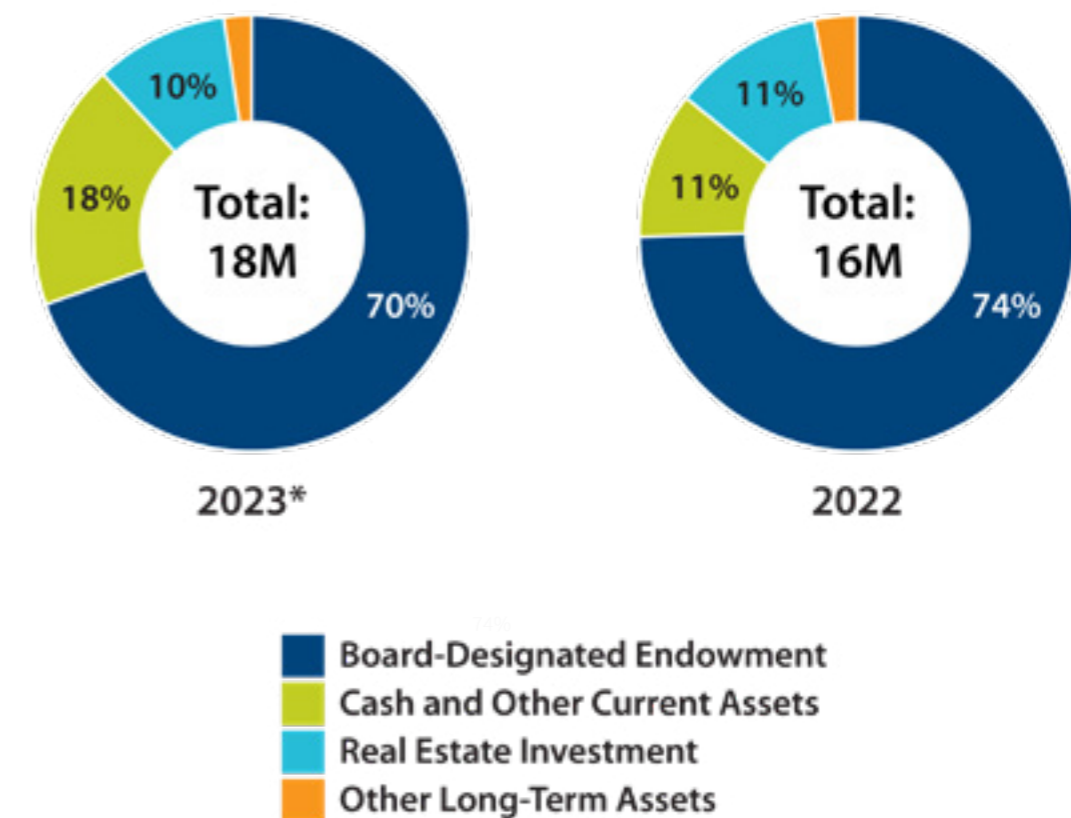


FINANCIAL UPDATE

In 2023 TIEC was fortunate to bring on new partners and tap into new lines of revenue which allowed us to grow our income while staying true to our mission. Since December 2022, TIEC's asset base has increased by 13 percent, with an expected growth of net assets of \$2 million. The organization has more than doubled its working capital, consistently maintaining a current ratio above two. Additionally, we updated our investment policy statement to allow for short-term investments in interest-bearing savings, bills, and bonds, thus putting our excess cash to work. TIEC has reduced expenses and become leaner, giving us the flexibility to respond as needed to changes in programs and operations.

TIEC's positive financial picture allowed for the launching of the Texas International Education Fund and the *In Fellowship With TIEC* awards. The organization will continue to invest in its members' internationalization efforts and is currently seeking partners looking to collectively use higher education ingenuity to solve global challenges.

Total Assets



**Calendar year-end results are estimated based on November 30 values and other estimates for revenue and expenses.*



TIEC LEADERSHIP FOR 2024



Texas Tech University
President Lawrence Schovanec
CHAIR



Texas A&M
International University
President Pablo Arenaz
VICE CHAIR



The University of Texas
at Dallas
President Richard C. Benson



Dr. David Gardner
SECRETARY OF THE BOARD



Texas A&M
University-Corpus Christi
President Kelly Miller



The University of
Texas at San Antonio
President Taylor Eighmy



The University of Texas
at Arlington
President Jennifer Cowley



Ms. Emily McCracken
TREASURER OF THE BOARD



Texas International Education Consortium

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

Texas International Education Consortium
611 West 14th Street
Austin, TX 78701

+1.512.477.9283
info@tiec.org
www.tiec.org

