

# Annual Report 2019

---



Texas International Education Consortium



# President's Message

---

Dear colleagues,

The last year was one of diversification in programs and capacity for the Texas International Education Consortium. As U.S. higher education institutions face another year of declining international students, and with intensive English programs exponentially affected, TIEC has been working hard to successfully shift our business model away from primarily the delivery of intensive English programs and toward a greater diversity of partnerships and programs. In this report, we reflect back on the programmatic and operational milestones of FY2019.

I am pleased to report that TIEC has been weathering the seismic shift in our industry, and all signs point to a positive trend for the coming fiscal year. I have been grateful for the support of the TIEC board of directors and executive committee as we have experimented with new projects, programs, and strategies. Our success is measured by our impact on international education in Texas, on the execution of high-impact programs, and on our contributions to our members. We will continue to strengthen our consortium while bringing more partners into our fold. We look forward to hearing from you with new ideas for TIEC.

Warm regards,

Robin J. Lerner  
President & CEO



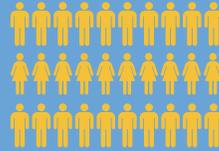


# FY201 A Year by The Numbers

**300**

## **PARTICIPANTS**

trained in our Austin HQ training center.



**123**

## **TEACHERS**

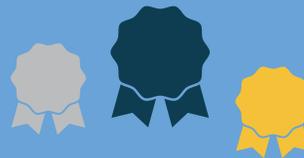
trained through FIVE teacher training programs.



**19**

## **FACULTY EXPERTS**

engaged in TIEC projects from SEVEN member institutions in NINE capacity-building projects.



**12**

## **NEW PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS**

signed with public and private partners in Texas and around the world.





# Where Our Participants Hailed From in 2019

---

*Algeria · Bahrain · Egypt · Iraq · Japan · Jordan · South Korea · Kuwait · Lebanon · Libya · Mexico · Morocco · Panama · The Philippines · United Arab Emirates · Tunisia · Saudi Arabia · Uruguay · Vietnam*

# A YEAR IN PROGRAMS

## Promoting Study Abroad: Texas as a Destination

### TIEC'S STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

Over the last year, TIEC continued to build on our history of providing top-quality study abroad programs for students from around the globe to visit and learn in Texas.

#### Mishima Senior High School

TIEC hosted 57 students from Nihon University's Mishima Senior High School in Japan for a three-week study abroad program in Austin in July and August of 2019. The students participated in TIEC's intensive English language coursework, local cultural activities, and experienced weekend homestays with American families.

*"I learned English conversation, Texas history and cultural differences between Japan and Texas."*

- Mishima summer 2019 participant

#### Korea WEST

TIEC welcomed 43 recent college graduates from Korea as part of our fifth cohort of the Korea WEST (Work English Study Travel) cultural exchange program from January to March 2019 and September to November 2018, in partnership with the Alliance Abroad Group. The study abroad program, established by the governments of the Republic of Korea and the United States and funded by the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Education, provides students the opportunity to learn and intern in the United States. TIEC's program provided both structured learning environments and real-world situations to prepare the students for their internship sponsored by AAG.



# A YEAR IN PROGRAMS

## TIEC'S STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

### PMU in Texas Prep Year Program

Forty-four students from Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University in Saudi Arabia arrived in October of 2018, to participate in a 10-week study abroad prep year program designed to improve their English and provide a cultural experience in Austin. The curriculum included intensive English, study skills, enhanced learning, algebra, and pre-calculus courses. The purpose of this program was to help students develop critical global competencies, as well as leadership and public speaking skills through participation in Toastmasters International.



## Promoting Excellence

### TEACHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

#### U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs Middle East and North Africa - English Language Teacher and Administrator Exchange

TIEC hosted 39 English-language teachers and administrators representing 13 countries across the Middle East and North Africa region in February 2019 for a three-week intensive training. The group explored teaching techniques, current pedagogy, student-centered learning, and technology in the classroom. Participants shadowed teachers and administrators in Texas schools. This program marked TIEC's first official program funded by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs. TIEC will host two additional groups of participants for three-week programs in the Spring of 2020. The first cohort continues to implement their action plans in their home schools and districts, and share experiences and knowledge virtually through TIEP's Online Global Community.

*"We as teachers and administrators had to visit schools, to shadow teachers, to acquire information about how schools in Austin work and to reflect upon ways of transferring what we have known and experienced to our countries."*

-NEA Teacher Exchange Participant Maouia Haj Mabrouk, Ph.D., Tunisia

#### U.S. Department of Education "Fulbright-Hays" – Pre-Departure Orientation - Teacher Exchange

TIEC worked with the Fulbright Commission of Uruguay and the U.S. Department of Education to conduct a 3-day pre-departure orientation for 16 U.S. educators traveling to Uruguay on a Department of Education-funded program. This educator-exchange program gave teachers the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the political, economic, and educational systems of Uruguay.



# A YEAR IN PROGRAMS

## U.S. Embassy Manila - Teacher Exchange

Funded by U.S. Embassy Manila, TIEC hosted 16 English-language teachers and administrators for a two-week training program in May 2019. This professional development program focused on building American English knowledge and skills, building capacities to effectively educate in multilingual communities, promoting best practices in teaching English as a second language, and building a sustainable network between American and Filipino educators.

## Fulbright Commission of Uruguay - Teacher Exchange

TIEC conducted its fifth professional development program for 24 Uruguayan secondary and elementary public school educators in February 2019, under the auspices of the Uruguay Fulbright Commission. Composed of 13 elementary teachers, eight secondary educators, and three secondary principals, the participants spent two weeks in Austin immersed in their host public schools and homestays with their U.S. educator counterparts. The educators shadowed U.S. teachers and administrators where they learned best practices in American teaching, practiced

cross-cultural teaching methodologies, and developed their own teaching techniques, enriching classrooms in their home country.

## Korean American Education Commission - Teacher Exchange

For the 19th year, TIEC hosted its professional development program for KAEC, hosting 28 Korean public school teachers for a six-week program from January to February. This annual program includes four weeks of seminars at TIEP on effective instructional practices, best practices for English language learners, and the American public education system, followed by two-week school site residencies where teachers observe bilingual and foreign language classroom instruction, and homestays.



## Youth Skills Development

TIEC is proud to have expanded our training programs that connect our Texas members with institutions and individuals working to solve global challenges around the world. Two areas of focus for TIEC training programs are entrepreneurship and youth skills development.

### 100. Strong in the Americas Building Bridges for New Innovators in Engineering

TIEC worked with the Universidad Politécnica de Guanajuato for the 100k Strong Building Bridges for New Innovators in Engineering program funded by the Partners of the Americas, 100k Strong in the Americas, and Exxon Mobil. BBNIE brought together engineering students from Lamar University, Texas State University, and UPG — located in Guanajuato, Mexico — to promote cross-cultural adaptation and hard-skill development through project-based learning.

Implemented in July, the program was facilitated in both TIEC’s headquarters and Texas State’s campus. Participants from diverse backgrounds developed their engineering skills, along with their leadership, collaboration, and communication skills through a variety of hands-on activities. In October 2019, Texas university students will travel to Mexico to complete the program by visiting manufacturing industries and cultural sites while acting as Texas student ambassadors to encourage Mexican students to study abroad.



# A YEAR IN PROGRAMS



## Youth Entrepreneurship Program - Panama

In February, TIEC launched an innovative two-week youth entrepreneurship and leadership program in Panama, funded by the U.S. Embassy in Panama. Implemented in coordination with Panamanian non-profit, Fundación Amaneceres, the municipality of Colon, the National Institute of Culture, and many other local community organizers, TIEC and experts from Texas Tech University and Texas A&M International University created and implemented a custom youth entrepreneurship curriculum, conducted entirely in Spanish, for 40 underserved youth in Colon, Panama.

The program included topics like recognizing opportunities, markets, capital, and financing options; human resources management; managing available resources, among others. All topics guided the participants to develop business ideas and present their plans in front of a panel of judges for a Shark Tank Capstone activity. The winner of the Shark Tank Capstone received seed money to implement their business plan with guidance by local partners in Panama City and overseas monitoring and evaluation support by TIEC.

## Higher Education and K-12 Capacity-Building

TIEC offers education partners across the globe the resources they need to design and deliver state-of-the-art academic programs and administrative systems that meet the needs of faculty, researchers, students, and professionals. Over the past year, TIEC drew on expertise from across our consortium of 31 Texas public colleges and universities to help build the capacity and quality of offerings for universities, colleges, and government agencies in the MENA region.

### **Badr University in Cairo Nursing Program Review**

TIEC managed a curriculum review project for Badr University of Cairo's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. The University of Texas at Arlington's associate dean of nursing and two additional faculty members conducted the review. TIEC CEO, Robin Lerner, and the review team traveled to Cairo in July to work with Badr's nursing faculty in-person. While there, the UTA team conducted a seminar for the wider academic nursing community of Cairo. As part of this and all TIEC reviews, TIEC provided recommendations for long-term international cooperation between Badr University and TIEC members. In this case, TIEC sees long-term relationship potential between Badr and UTA.



### **Saudi Arabian Ministry of Higher Education Delegation Visit**

TIEC was pleased to host four officials from the Ministry of Education in Saudi Arabia for a five-day learning tour of Austin-area K-12 schools. TIEC arranged meetings with districts elementary, middle and high schools, as well as non-profit school models, alternative instructional models, schools managing cognitive disabilities, and regional state educational administrators. The project was implemented as part of TIEC's capacity-building and concierge services.



### **Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University Program Reviews**

Throughout the spring, TIEC conducted reviews and evaluations of four newly-designed master programs and three undergraduate programs for Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University to determine if each satisfied widely adopted, internationally recognized standards. TIEC assembled a team of experts from TIEC-member universities, including Texas A&M University, Texas Tech University, and The University of Texas at San Antonio, and Austin-based partner university, St. Edward's University, for these reviews.

## Consortium Capacity-Building

### DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

One of TIEC's stated goals is to facilitate new opportunities for our members, and to assist in their internationalization efforts. In furtherance of this, TIEC shares information, makes connections and facilitates new partnerships for members. TIEC also facilitates TIEC-only engagements with experts who offer information on international programmatic opportunities available to our members.



In April, as part of TIEC's Distinguished Speaker Series, the Honorable Bonnie Glick, Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, traveled to Austin for a special engagement for both the TIEC operating council and the board of directors. Deputy Glick encouraged TIEC members to engage with USAID and fielded a number of questions. We are grateful to Deputy Glick's outreach to Texas higher education and her positive and encouraging message.

## Promoting Global Networks

### TIEC J-1 EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM

During FY2019, TIEC continued to serve as the sponsor of J-1 academic exchange visitors for a number of universities. As a sponsor, TIEC issues DS-2019 forms for international students, professors, research scholars, and short-term scholars.

**The following institutions currently participate in the J-1 program under TIEC auspices:**

- Angelo State University
- Austin Community College
- Dallas International University/  
Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics
- Letourneau University
- McMurry University
- Prairie View A&M University
- Sul Ross State University
- Texas A&M International University
- Texas A&M University – Commerce
- Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi
- Texas A&M University – San Antonio
- Texas A&M University – Texarkana
- Texas Southern University
- Texas State University – San Marcos
- Texas Woman’s University
- The University of Texas of the Permian Basin
- Trinity University
- West Texas A&M University



# A New Approach to English Language Programs

As TIEC grows and adapts, we continue to examine how best to successfully match our programming and capabilities to our mission goals while also meeting a need in the markets we serve, at home and abroad. The demand for quality English language instruction continues to grow around the world, and TIEC must be flexible and adaptable to meet that need.



While FY2019 saw a pause in TIEC's individual student English-learning programs, the team conducted a market assessment and a curriculum overhaul of individual student programs and study abroad curriculum. The updated methodology utilizes an online learning community and new educational software and tools, as well as a student-centered focus and flexible schedule.

The market assessment resulted in the development of a revised Texas University Pathway Program and a new ESL program, ACCESS, which successfully launched in September of 2019.



# Building TIEC's Capacity

During FY2019, the TIEC staff put in place a number of new tools, systems, resources, and processes to help maximize capacity and increase the efficiency of our team.

With the reconfiguration of existing and the repurposing of vacant roles to include both program development and implementation, TIEC is building organizational capacity to increase its programmatic strength.

TIEC's team made major strides in FY2019 to modernize how departments collaborate and work together, implementing project management software and collaboration tools so that our lean team can implement a larger number of individual projects and grants. The team overhauled standard operating procedures and increased capacity for market research, outreach, promotion, and engagement.

## FACILITIES

In the last fiscal year, TIEC made modest but necessary updates to our facilities. These have included two new student labs to accompany a more dynamic curriculum, including a lab designed to ensure accessibility for all of TIEC's students. TIEC is now telework and dog friendly.

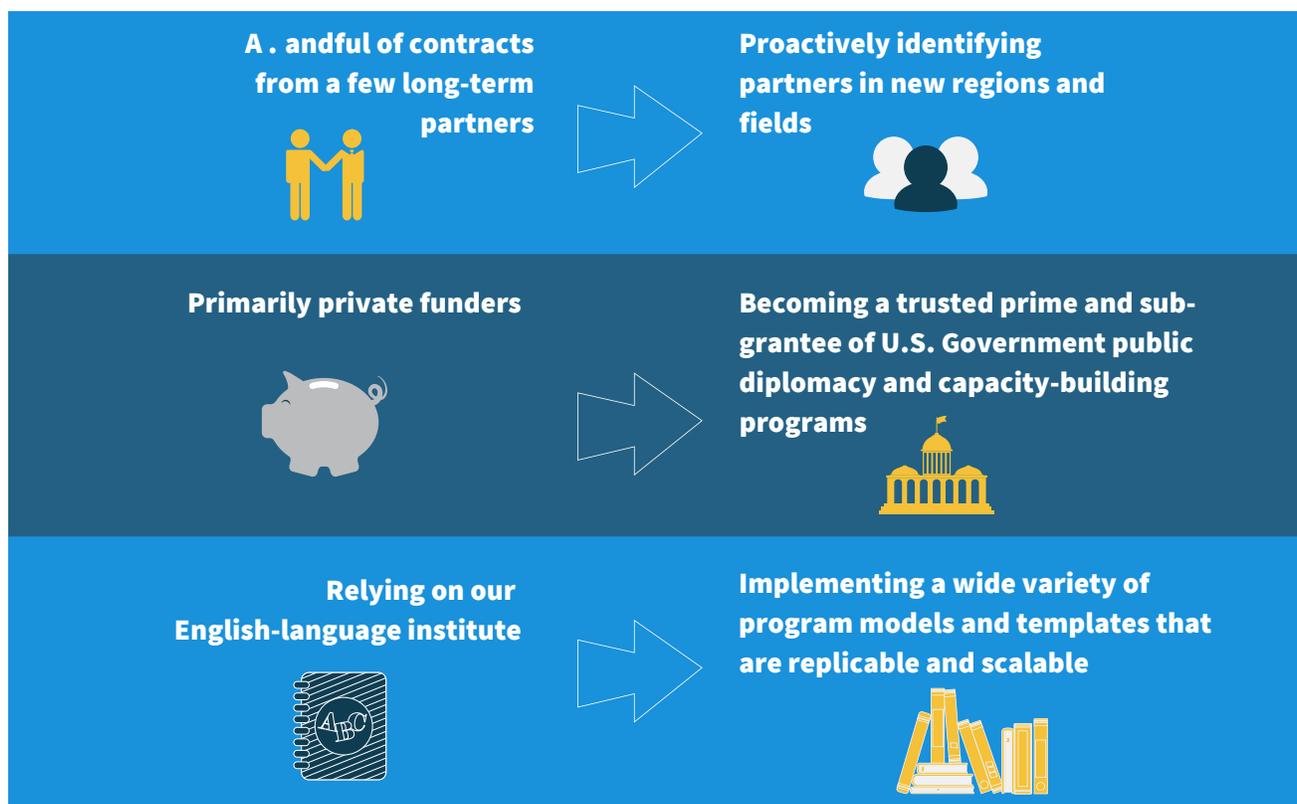


# Refining Our Mission

As international education in the United States is undergoing a number of shifts, TIEC is doing our own shifting to stay on top of the trends. TIEC is encouraged that institutions are more open to online collaboration, to virtual exchange and globally-connected classrooms, and that universities around the world are seeking out international accreditation and setting higher standards for themselves. TIEC sees opportunity for our consortium with each adaptation of the industry.

In order to continue the successful consortium model on which TIEC has been based for 35 years, we are ensuring that our revenue strategy is safely diversified and our partner base is wide and strategic. That refinement is underpinned by three major changes in how TIEC works:

## TIEC Transitioned From ...



# A Look Ahead

## IN THE NEXT YEAR, THE TIEC TEAM LOOKS FORWARD TO:

1. Revitalizing how TIEC collaborates with consortium members on their internationalization priorities.
2. Building on our expertise in English language instruction, TIEC is expanding our teacher/administrator professional development, youth and women's entrepreneurship, and other special programs.
3. Establishing relationships with a number of new partners at home and abroad.

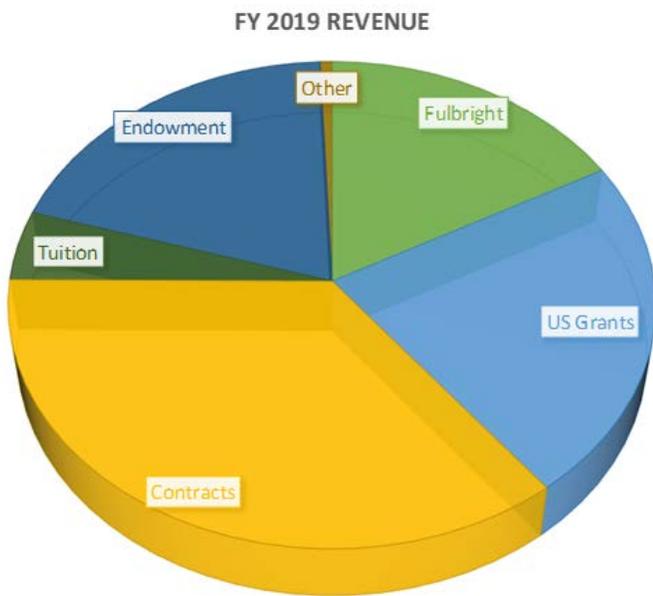
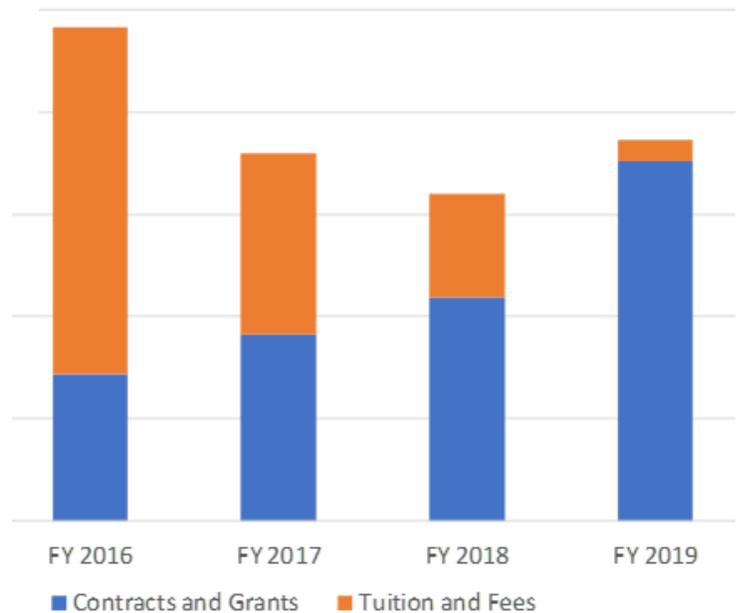


FIGURE 2:  
Illustrates how TIEC's business model has shifted. Going forward, tuition will grow alongside other programs.

FIGURE 1:  
Diversification of Revenue Sources;  
In FY2019, TIEC successfully transitioned toward a more diverse array of sources.



# Focus Countries for FY2020

---



# Executive Committee Members

---

## TIEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS FY2019

TIEC is governed by a board of directors, made up of the presidents from the 31 universities in the consortium, that bring together a powerhouse of institutional and educational knowledge from across the State of Texas. Each year, six members are appointed to the board's executive committee.

**Lamar University:** President Kenneth R. Evans, Chair

**Texas Woman's University:** Chancellor Carine M. Feyten, Vice Chair

**The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley:** President Guy Bailey

**Sul Ross State University:** President William L. Kibler

**Texas Tech University:** President Lawrence Schovanec

**The University of Texas at Arlington:** President Vistasp Karbhari



## Texas International Education Consortium

1103 West 24th Street  
Austin, TX 78705  
[www.tiec.org](http://www.tiec.org)

