



TEXAS INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

Annual Report 2022

Texas Based, Globally Engaged

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Preparing an annual report is a process that many of us look forward to. We stop our frenetic pace and take a look back at our activities, and our outcomes. While now old-fashioned, the ritual of ripping off the last page of a coffee-stained desk calendar served to provide a sense of closure and reflection. At TIEC, we start fresh in January, informed by the lessons we learned from the previous year, but something was different this time.

Given the world's collective emergence from COVID restrictions in 2022, we have found ourselves looking at the past three years as we consider our organizational well-being. The pandemic era forced a reevaluation of success for all of us: our operational backbone became the focus, and sheer survival became the measure. Non-profit CEOs reported to our boards about the flexibility of our funders, our banking institutions, our programs and our staffing models. We reported on the health of our reserves and the mental health of our teams. We proved that we can master new technology and maintain motivation and focus-on-mission from afar. Advancing our mission never lost its importance, but it took second place. While the

world will continue to face new health challenges, I am grateful for what we learned over the past three years about what it means to be a strong organization, and how to keep focused on goals.

I am thankful for the TIEC team, the Board of Directors, our members and our partners whose contributions and support allowed TIEC to be daring despite trying times. You walked with me as we took risks to advance our mission and grow our assets during the troubling years behind us. The COVID era reinforced that pivoting into crises and marching forward on long-term strategies are vital actions, even if it feels overwhelming. We found ways for TIEC to be a helpful member of our community during the most challenging periods, even when it meant borrowing from our reserves. These decisions were made through careful analysis, forecasting, stakeholder engagement and board support, and they represent the tendency toward boldness for which I want TIEC to be known.

So, what did we do well? Without giving the whole report away, we: grew to a record 41 members; grew our assets despite the ups and downs of the global markets; partnered with five Texas member universities to host 12 Afghan fellows; hosted the first-ever Texas booth at NAFSA; brought voices from Ghana and the Philippines to SXSW EDU; hosted exchanges from across Central Asia and MENA; brought together renewable energy faculty from Egypt and Texas and presented at COP 27; and most importantly, carried through on all pre-pandemic programs and closed them out with TIEC's consistently high-quality outcomes.

Over the past year, TIEC advanced on our mission while growing our membership and our assets, and carrying out our commitment to the TIEC Fellowship for Afghan Evacuees.

Looking forward to 2023, I am grateful to announce that we are closing out 2022 with an exciting new partnership with our long standing friend and first affiliate member, Prince Mohammad bin Fahd University, to assist them with the planning of their new academic medical center. We are thrilled to be standing by their side as they take on this ambitious new project. We also learned we will be initiating another large-scale virtual exchange in partnership with the Stevens Initiative. Perhaps most exciting, we look forward to the 2023 launch of the Texas International Education Fund.

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

Robin J. Lerner
President & CEO
Texas International Education Consortium

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

TIEC expands 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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MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

As we look forward to 2023, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of TIEC and share some of the highlights of the past year and initiatives for the coming year.

One year ago, we placed our first TIEC Afghan Fellows with their Texas university hosts. The board unanimously created the Fellowship in the wake of the U.S. withdrawal in 2021 as part of our support of Afghan scholars and students. Over the course of 2022, TIEC helped to fund and place 12 high-risk individuals in professional fellowships and/or study programs across Texas. In many instances, TIEC was the chief motivator for our members to consider hosting these affected individuals, and TIEC's efforts to match individuals with hosts and to work through partnership agreements created opportunities that otherwise would not have been possible. With TIEC's support, students across Texas are learning about the complexities and richness of Afghanistan directly from Afghan people. While we learned many lessons along the way, the Afghan Fellows program represents an important attribute of TIEC membership in the emphasis on and value of global internationalization.



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

Much like our 2021 membership expansion, the Fellowship program represents progress in developing a comprehensive strategy to solidify TIEC as a global leader in higher education internationalization. This is a noteworthy ambition for a state-based consortium. The continued impact of TIEC assets can motivate new innovations and possibilities for our members. Looking ahead, in 2023 we will launch the Texas International Education Fund as part of a new strategy to invest in direct globalization outcomes for our members.

You are encouraged to become aware of the broader efforts of CEO Lerner and TIEC administration that will strengthen core internationalization capabilities across all member institutions. TIEC is committed to enhancing internationalization initiatives of all members. To that end, TIEC will continue to: create opportunities for faculty to participate in meaningful projects and build their international profiles; help international offices build their know-how; vet new partners on behalf of our members to save them time and funds; serve as J-1 sponsor for those who need the support; and seek funding opportunities on behalf of our members to build academic partnerships.

There has never been a better time to be a TIEC member.

TIEC recognizes the unique attributes of every university member and will continue to offer a platform to share and learn from each other. There has never been a better time to be a TIEC member and we look forward to your continued participation in promoting the benefits of internationalization to our students and faculty.


Lawrence Schovanec
TIEC Board Chair
President, Texas Tech University



CONNECTING WITH CONSORTIA

As a consortium, TIEC is building partnerships with consortia in Texas and around the world. Consortia are set up to efficiently create pathways for collaboration. This was the purpose upon which TIEC was built, and we are committed to increasing and formalizing our approach to partnerships with other consortia. In 2022, we initiated some strategic alliances and participated in consortia/association events that helped us meet our mission to expand higher education globalization.

TCCAO

The Texas Consortium of Chief Academic Officers invited TIEC CEO Robin Lerner to engage as a featured speaker during their 2022 annual meeting. The members of TCCAO shape and carry out their institutions' academic strategies and priorities. Their recognition of TIEC as a mechanism to support academic collaboration between Texas and the world signifies TIEC's value, and it simultaneously indicates the importance of international collaboration to the academic success of Texas universities. We look forward to our ongoing collaboration.

AARU

TIEC seeks to be an active member of the international education community. A guiding principle of TIEC is to support existing efforts to engage and connect the members of our industry, and not to replicate what is already working. To this end, TIEC hosted the first-ever Texas booth at the annual conference of NAFSA: The Association of International Educators. NAFSA holds the world's largest international education conference and representing the state of Texas in such an established forum was a bucket list item for TIEC which we will continue in 2023!

NAFSA

TIEC was pleased to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Association of Arab Universities. Also called the Union of Arab Universities, the AArU is an organization of universities across 22 countries working within the framework of the Arab League. Based in Amman, Jordan, its objective is to support and connect universities in the Arab world and to create effective vehicles of collaboration with others. TIEC was a featured speaker during their annual meeting in 2022 and we look forward to furthering innovative initiatives between our consortia. (insert photo of memorandum signing)

Columbia Challenge Your Knowledge

TIEC initiated an exciting collaboration with Colombia Challenge Your Knowledge (CCYK), a consortium of 31 public and private Colombian universities. Starting with a virtual networking event that engaged 54 international education community members from universities in Colombia and Texas, we look forward to in-person visits between Colombia and Texas, and launching activated and sustainable partnerships in 2023.



INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Building deep expertise and impact

A Year of Programs

TIEC's programmatic capacity and expertise situate us as a unique membership organization. While member services are a major effort, our grant-funded projects that typically focus on capacity building and our fee-for-service contracts that tend to support academic growth define us globally. With the addition of affiliate members around the world, TIEC has further raised its level of expertise and global know-how. We experienced 2022 as an atypical year, beginning to resume pre-COVID activities but with a global backlog of visas and a workforce still in flux. Given this, while some of TIEC's programming continued remotely, we were pleased to resume in-person exchanges in March with two cohorts of our English Language Teaching Institute, followed by NEXT30, CAJIR and Egypt UPA in-person delegations.

A major draw of TIEC is our ability to nimbly manage projects on behalf of our members that bring in their subject-matter expertise without the complexities of working across large institutions. Another is the ease with which we can recruit experts for almost any program. With a consortium of 41 universities, and 37 years' experience recruiting subject matter experts, we have an unparalleled network at our fingertips. With our permanent shift away from English language classes for individual students, we focused ever more on university partnerships and supporting the curriculum needs of universities building world class programs in challenging environments. Our University Partnerships Accelerator melds our mission to open global pathways to Texas and introduce Texas to new opportunities, and proved to be a popular program for U.S. embassies. TIEC's Texas-Egypt University Partnerships Accelerator on Renewable Energy, funded by the U.S. Embassy in Cairo, brought Egyptian renewable energy faculty to Texas for a four-university tour of renewable energy research and innovations. Supported by TIEC's ongoing project management, program delegates from Egypt and Texas continued their collaboration after the visit, and co-presented on renewable energy innovations at an official side event for the UN Climate Convention - COP 27 - in Sharm el Sheikh.

We closed out this year with the launch of a new two-year consulting project for Prince Mohammad University to assist with the planning of a new, world-class teaching hospital. In addition, We were thrilled to learn we are a recipient of a Stevens Initiative Virtual Exchange grant. Through this grant, we continue our support to universities in Iraq, and build unique bridges of faculty cooperation.

JAN

TIEC Afghan Fellows
begin at UNT, Rice, and UTA

FEB

Flexible Learning Solutions
Philippines Commission on Higher Education

MAR

SXSW EDU
Global Leaders Discuss Emerging Online Governance

APR

English Language Teaching Institute
US Embassy Cairo

MAY

Online Academic Writing Seminar
Friends of Fulbright Columbia

JUN

Central Asia Journalist in Residence Program
with Meridian International

JUL

Next30 IT and Business Professional Exchange
with Meridian International

AUG

University Partnership Accelerator
in Renewable Energy
US Embassy Cairo

SEPT

International Emerging Leaders
of Online Learning Colloquy
US Embassy Accra

OCT

TIEC Afghan Fellows
begin at UTSA, UTA, and Texas Tech

NOV

English Language Conversation Club
Japan

DEC

Next30 Film & Media International Visitor Program
Central Asia / Meridian International

Baghdad Business School Program Launch
US Embassy Baghdad

COP27: Climate and Energy Impact Showcase
Egypt and Texas Universities

Teaching Hospital Planning Project
Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University

TIEC'S FELLOWSHIP FOR AFGHAN EVACUEES

Promoting campus internationalization across Texas



12 Afghan fellows were placed at 5 Texas universities, providing a soft landing and strong start for Afghan evacuees, the majority of whom are women.

TYPES OF PROGRAMS



University Partnerships

Programs that facilitate cooperation between our member university administrators, faculty, and researchers and peers around the world. The heart of TIEC is our facilitation of collaboration at the individual and institutional level between our member universities and peers around the world. We do this through many methods, to include MOUs with higher education consortia, matchmaking events between affiliate and Texas members, promoting Texas at international conferences, and vetting and introducing potential partners to our members.



Curriculum Services

Programs in which TIEC works with teachers, faculty, or administrators to improve their curriculum and instructional capacity . Since the inception of TIEC in 1985, we have worked with teachers, faculty, and administrators to improve their curriculum and/or instructional capacity. Through private contracts and grants, TIEC's curriculum services include online course design, online instruction, establishing university-wide systems for continuous quality improvement, establishment of new degree programs, and review and/or modernization of existing curriculum.



Internationalization

Programs that contribute to the increased capacity of members — individual and institutional — to internationalize their curriculum, policies, programs, and methodologies. TIEC exists to increase the capacity of members — individual and institutional — to internationalize their faculty, students, curriculum, policies, programs, and methodologies. In 2022, TIEC initiated the TIEC Fellowship for Afghan Evacuees in order to create a new model of hosting international students and scholars, and to increase the global perspectives at member university campuses. Additionally, TIEC has long been a champion for virtual exchange (also known as COIL) and is pleased to have been selected as a 2023 recipient of the Stevens Initiative, a partnership between the U.S. State Department and the Aspen Institute.



English

Programs that offer intensive English language learning for individual students. TIEC offers online and in-person professional development programs for English instructors and administrators around the world. TIEC's English Language Teaching Institute helps universities and schools create, grow, and improve their English language curriculum. TIEC was pleased to finalize a number of our pre-pandemic ELTI grant programs in 2022, and to develop a new partnership with Friends of Fulbright in Colombia.

COP27 Climate and Energy Impact Showcase: Egypt and Texas Universities

Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt

TIEC, Texas A&M Energy Institute, Greentown Labs, and five Egyptian universities presented the Climate and Energy Impact Showcase during the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27).

The showcase focused on innovative technologies and pathways for achieving zero-carbon emissions, combatting climate change, promoting energy equity, ensuring water and food security, and sustaining agricultural and energy production worldwide. Most notably, the event featured energy and climate innovations developed by students from the Texas A&M Energy Institute and Egyptian universities.

The session's presenters include: Jeff Sammons of TAMU Energy Institute; Robin Lerner of TIEC; Lara Cottingham of Greentown Labs and the Texas Entrepreneurship Exchange for Energy (TEX-E); and five Egyptian universities: Assiut University, Arab Academy for Science and Technology, Badr University, Cairo University and Galala University.



Education Innovation in West Africa

Reimagining Education in Ghana

This blended event convened digital learning leaders in ideation, collaboration, and networking around opportunities to advance access to learning through distance education. Featuring keynotes and speakers from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) and other thought leaders from West Africa, the program focused on sharing effective best practices for ensuring student success in online learning environments.

110
participants

With the sponsorship of U.S. Embassy Accra, TIEC and the Online Learning Consortium (OLC) are supporting KNUST's efforts to become a Center of Excellence in online teaching and learning.



NEXT30 – Young Leaders of Central Asia

Media, IT, Business, and Film Professional Exchange
in collaboration with Meridian International

16
 participants

Next30 Young Leaders of Central Asia participants traveled to Austin for in-depth discussions on entrepreneurship, leadership, film, media, art, and advocacy. The film and media cohort attended the Texas Tribune Festival where they joined sessions on public policy and learned firsthand about non- and for-profit media models and reporting. The art and advocacy cohort met with leaders at the Kendra Scott Women Entrepreneurial Leadership Institute at the University of Texas at Austin. They shared with local community members their vision for Central Asia.

American University of Iraq Sulaimani (AUIS)

Collaborative Capacity Building:
 Integrated, Sustained, and Data-Informed
 Course Improvement

For the past two years, TIEC has been supporting the American University of Iraq Sulaimani (AUIS) through a grant funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs. We were pleased to receive approval to continue our collaboration through a program extension in 2022. The extended project will support AUIS' plans to further adapt their curriculum to incorporate diversity and gender and shorten the program graduation length to serve women students, modernize processes and tools to support continuous internal program review and improvement, and ensure quality learning outcomes.

12

professional
 development
 workshops
 planned for the
 first half of 2023

Baghdad Business School Program Launch

Educating Iraqi Youth for Successful Careers



TIEC began a relationship with the newly established Baghdad Business School in Iraq. The program's overall objective is to strengthen institutional capacity to prepare Iraqi youth for opportunities in the private sector through the provision of an American-style education. TIEC is broadly assisting with building academic, administrative, and curriculum capacity and specifically with the development of English as a Foreign Language (EFL) instruction. TIEC is also supporting BBS' long-term goal of U.S. accreditation. To accomplish this, the school is developing a strategy to expand and diversify its student body and to develop and enhance its career preparation goals.



Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University Hospital Project

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

TIEC has been a friend and partner to PMU since its inception as a new university in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia in 2006. Over the span of its operation, TIEC has continued to assist PMU with curriculum services, and PMU became TIEC's first affiliate member in 2020. In December, TIEC and PMU executed an ambitious new partnership. TIEC, through teams of U.S. experts, will provide PMU with comprehensive planning tools for an academic medical center to accompany their new medical school. Stay tuned for updates.

Online Global Community

TIEC's Online Global Community (OGC), a community of practice for global educators, has gained nearly 600 users. The OGC is a forum for members to share challenges and successes, and showcase their TIEC digital credentials. It solidifies our program's sustainability by providing opportunities for international and U.S. educators to establish long-term partnerships. The group is both a discussion forum and an outreach platform designed to keep our participants, alumni, and educators connected so they can continue sharing their thoughts, successes, and challenges. We encourage you to join us.

600 MEMBERS
AND GROWING



MEMBERSHIP

Two years after launching our paid membership model and expanding our network to include international affiliates, we have continued to grow our consortium, strengthen engagement, and build a member-centric international education organization. We grew this year to 41 members, including 7 affiliates.

To further align TIEC human resources to our member-centric mission, we created the role of Director of Global Education and Impact to strengthen and scale membership through expansion of members and services.

The new Director also oversees our business development efforts which are focused on creating win-win, revenue-bearing models of academic collaboration between Texas members and universities around the world. Our Global Partnerships Manager oversees this process and is available for consultation.

2022 Member Events

- Presidents' Forum on Climate Solutions and Higher Education
- Texas Higher Education booth at NAFSA annual conference & expo
- Spring Operating Council meeting
- Colombia-Texas universities virtual networking event
- Open Doors Report 2022: Interpreting Texas' Trends
- Fall Operating Council meeting

New TIEC Affiliates in 2022

Ajman University	Ajman, United Arab Emirates
Badr University in Cairo	Badr, Egypt
Dar El Hekmah University	Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
King Abdullah University of Science and Technology	Thuwal, Saudi Arabia

Innovative Internationalization

Our consortium is composed of a variety of universities that are all in different phases of their internationalization process. Throughout 2022, TIEC positioned itself to support our member efforts by:

- ✓ Engaging with members on international partnership development
- ✓ Increasing exposure of Texas internationalization efforts across the globe
- ✓ Expanding our public-private partnerships for membership cooperation

Increased Networking and Collaboration

Robust participation in Operating Council committees and our Energy Working Group have shown networking is a tangible benefit for members. Throughout 2022, TIEC worked across various networks to build strong channels of communication that support faculty and administrators keen on strengthening their internationalization efforts within their institution. This past year, TIEC provided:

- ✓ Leadership committee opportunities for international officers
- ✓ Professional development opportunities for faculty and staff
- ✓ Efficient relationship-building channels of communication with international affiliates

Identified Opportunities for Growth

As affiliate membership grows, so does the number of partners Texas members can work with to pursue funded programs and research, and collaborate via TIEC to pursue opportunities to strengthen their globalization outcomes for their students, their institutions, and to do good in the world. In 2022, TIEC worked to:

- ✓ Identify new partners, contacts, experts, and financial resources that support member internationalization goals
- ✓ Develop and implement grant-funded programs with partners
- ✓ Convene with experts in topical global issues, giving voice and visibility to Texas expertise, and coalescing members together to engage in programmatic opportunities

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Over the last three plus decades, TIEC's leadership safeguarded its financial reserves to secure long-term financial stability. TIEC's investment strategy was pivotal in seeing the organization through the turmoil of the global pandemic. Unfortunately for most of us, 2022 saw significant volatility in the global markets and our reserves were not spared. Luckily, TIEC assets have been wisely diversified with cash and other investments.

The health of our reserves allowed us to go forward with our commitment to the TIEC Fellowship for Afghan Evacuees without jeopardizing our financial well-being, and to plan forward for the 2023 launch of the Texas International Education Fund. The Fellowship and the upcoming Fund exemplify TIEC's motivation to be an active member of our international education community, and to mobilize funds to support outcomes.

Our reserves have also allowed us to expand our membership with a low annual membership fee, to test new approaches and gain feedback from members along the way. We don't always get it right the first time, but we have the space to innovate and improve. With a strategic shift to balance grant-funded income with additional fee-for-service, we ended 2022 with healthy income streams from both our consulting services and grant programs. With all of this, we find ourselves in the satisfying position of being at a balanced programmatic capacity.

We were pleased to receive another clean audit, and our accounting is efficient and secure. We changed the start of our fiscal year from September to October, to ease reporting for our federal grants and to align with the quarter system.

Our reserves have allowed us to retain a low annual membership fee, invest in the Fellowship for Afghan Evacuees, and plan for a 2023 launch of the Texas International Education Fund.

Operations: Lean and Flexible

TIEC downsized our physical space from our 37,000 sq.ft. legacy headquarters to a 3,600 sq.ft. historic building in Austin's Central Business District. Our light-filled, energetic environment has refreshed the office experience. To defray the costs associated with the office lease, TIEC has subsidized with tenants to share our space.

As reported last year, streamlining operations allowed TIEC to fully transition our capabilities as a hybrid workplace. While TIEC's core staff remains small, we head into 2023 with ten key staff members fully invested in our mission and model.

In 2022, we continued upgrading and enjoyed a mostly paper-free and cloud-based operation. 2022 also saw the planning phase of our relaunch of the tiec.org website. Keep in touch with us on social media to catch the official unveiling.

TIEC Awards and Programs During FY2022

Continuity of Education through Flexible Learning Foundations
[Philippines Commission on Higher Education, and U.S. Embassy Manila, and EducationUSA](#)

Continuity of Education through Flexible Learning Foundations
[US Embassy Accra](#)

Tunisia - Effective School Leadership Institute
[US Embassy Tunis](#)

Egypt - English Language Teaching Institute
[US Embassy Cairo](#)

Central Asia Journalists in Residence
[Meridian International](#)

Ghana - International Emerging Leaders of Online Learning
[US Embassy Kumasi](#)

Egypt - University Partnership Accelerator
[US Embassy Cairo](#)

Central Asia - Next30
[Meridian International](#)

Japan & Colombia Texas University Pathways/ACCESS Intensive English
[Fee for Service](#)

TIEC J-1 Visa Services Program
[Fee for Service](#)

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FY2023



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Looking Ahead to 2023

Texas International Education Fund: Investing in our Members

On December 7, 2022, we held our inaugural Operating Council Leadership Committee meeting to exchange ideas for the launch of the Texas International Education Fund (TIEF), one of our 2023 planned initiatives. We shared ideas about how TIEF could award financial support at the university, faculty, and student levels to increase internationalization at Texas and affiliate member institutions.



Building Partnerships in Key Focus Areas and Regions

Renewable Energy and Health

As we move forward, we will strengthen member offerings through in-house experience, match TIEC activities to member values/needs/goals, create strategic partnerships and alliances to strengthen member programming, and link organizational capacity and outcomes to global higher education demand. We have developed a robust agenda for this next year that addresses the internationalization priorities of our consortium.

We will create programming and facilitate collaborative opportunities that address key focus areas such as renewable energy and health. Moreover, we will facilitate meaningful opportunities for partnership development by hosting virtual networking events with higher education consortia and agencies throughout Latin America, Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Lastly, TIEC will represent and promote Texas higher education at domestic and international conferences and improve brand awareness to be recognized as a thought leader in the field of international education.

Beginning of a New Era

New TIEC Headquarters, Staff, and Opportunities

After 35 years, TIEC sold its legacy headquarters building, and last spring we moved into a cozy new space in Austin's Central Business District. Within our new home, we have modernized our workspace, instituted a hybrid work model, onboarded four new team members, and hosted our stakeholders and friends, old and new. Being in-person has new meaning since COVID — our space is simultaneously large enough to convene our stakeholders and host international delegations, while intimate enough to facilitate focused team-building, collaboration and vigorous brainstorming sessions.



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