



TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

A Member of The Texas A&M University System

Office of the President

Senate Sub-Committee on Higher Education Texas Academy of International Studies

I. Why the Academy and why Laredo?

To put to optimum use, for the benefit of the State, the unique strengths and opportunities available on the border.

To compete in a global society, our students must learn to think globally. Laredo sits midway between El Paso and Brownsville, astride IH 35, the busiest land port-of-entry in the nation.

A city of truly binational, bicultural life, Laredo forms the ideal environment for developing an international curriculum. To become bilingual in Laredo is a natural, not rarified, phenomenon.

Our brightest and most ambitious students are the ones at present who stagnate in the waning months of high school.

The Academy will bridge the gap between high school and university, sending students forward with two full years of college completed.

Texas A&M International University has just completed residential facilities which will accommodate the Academy.

Closing the Gaps requires that together we develop creative, new approaches to increase participation and success in higher education.

The University in Laredo has in place courses of study which stress an international awareness, as well as faculty and students with a diverse international experience, in a community of manageable size.

Partnerships already in place with numerous Mexican universities (Guanajuato, Monterrey Tech, San Luis Potosí) offer a natural venue for expanded study.

The University in Laredo has an international faculty, with 37 percent holding degrees from foreign universities.

II. Goals:

- To provide secondary students of energy and talent an enriched academic and social environment which mirrors and models the global challenges of professional life;
- To stimulate young people, through study with a diverse and international faculty and mentorships in multinational settings, to aspire to excellence in a professional marketplace which rewards those with a global understanding;
- To support research into the best strategies and practices related to international understanding and learning, and to disseminate those findings throughout the education community;
- To engage the business community, already committed to effective competition in a global environment, in the process of transmitting that vision to new generations of young people;
- To encourage young men and women contemplating entering the teaching profession, and to guide their understanding of the challenges and opportunities that diversity and multicultural populations bring to education.

III. Programs:

- Classes are conceived to incorporate an international focus as a part of the curriculum. For example, using special classrooms designed for this purpose, students studying American history can join British or French counterparts in a simultaneous, joint class to probe the same issues.
- For each of four semesters, students in the Academy will enroll in a seminar to study special topics of global import. International students, both graduate and undergraduate, enrolled at TAMIU, will participate in these seminars.
- In the summer between the first and second year of the Academy, students will travel to an affiliate university in another country, following there a field-based program both practical and academic.

The Texas Academy for International Studies in Laredo will be located in the locale uniquely suited to complement its mission, supported in part by programs and resources now in place, dedicated to international study.

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