



MEDIA STATEMENT

28 March 2024

The Texas International Education Consortium (TIEC) Launches Cross-Cultural Energy Transition Project to Address Climate Solutions in Association with Universities South Africa (USAf) sponsored by the U.S. Department of State

The Texas International Education Consortium (TIEC) in collaboration with Universities South Africa (USAf) has begun a programme funded by the U.S. Department of State out of the U.S. Embassy Pretoria to attend to the goals of the **Just Energy Transition** in South Africa. The programme primarily targets universities, community colleges, and technical and vocational education and training (TVET) programmes in Texas and South Africa, with the objective to promote cross-cultural collaboration across U.S. and South African institutions to impart innovative action plans for the energy transition, foster international partnership for climate solutions, and engage and uplift communities' education and skills development. The programme will include a series of virtual seminars and a reciprocal in-person exchange within 2024.

South Africa, much like numerous other nations across the globe, is bearing the social and economic impacts of this transition, especially in communities highly dependent on fossil fuel-based industries.

“We are excited to be partnering with TIEC on this crucial focus area for USAf and its member universities, especially on its contribution to a more **Just Energy Transition** and sustainable future for South Africa, and its people,” said Dr Phethiwe Matutu, Chief Executive Officer. “The project will enhance and complement what we’re already doing in this domain through our relevant strategy groups and community of practice.”

By virtue of being a leader in national energy production, Texas is an exemplary partner from whom South Africa stands to learn – especially on the state’s own energy transitions; strategy, innovation; and best practices. Texas holds the first rank in wind-generated electricity, contributing over one-fourth to the U.S.’s total wind-powered electricity in 2021. Texas also ranks sixth in the nation for solar power potential.

“Texas has long been a leader in innovation, and our member institutions have been at the forefront of the energy transition as Texas and the world look to implement new climate solutions,” said Robin Lerner, JD, President & CEO of TIEC. “Supported by a diverse array of sustainable and renewable energy research centers across multiple universities, Texas is eager to partner with institutions abroad to work towards a just energy transition.”



A total of 40 participants from cross-disciplinary departments of TIEC and USAf member institutions and South African TVETs will partake in the programme, with selected participants representing their institutions during the reciprocal exchanges.

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About Universities South Africa

Universities South Africa (USAf) is a non-profit membership organisation representative of South Africa’s 26 public universities. USAf endorses a comprehensive, responsive, and equitable national higher education system. Through lobbying and advocacy, and its flagship programmes, USAf promotes and facilitates an optimal environment conducive for universities to function effectually and maximally contribute to the social, cultural, and economic advancement of South Africa. USAf grounds and derives its strategy and operations from the broader values of Equality, Non-Discrimination, Academic Freedom, Critical Scholarship, Intellectual Enquiry, Ethical Advocacy as well as the Africanisation of its focus which are enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. For more information on USAf please visit www.usaf.ac.za

About the Texas International Education Consortium:

Since 1985, the Texas International Education Consortium, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, has been working on behalf of its members to build international partnerships and a global network of friends and sponsors to bring opportunities to Texas and share Texas expertise around the world. At 50+ members, TIEC’s university matchmaking has opened opportunities for faculty research as well as student mobility, student recruitment, and professional exchange. TIEC was created to be a nimble programming partner to its university members and has established itself as a trusted implementer of publicly funded grants and programs, as well as fee-for-service projects. TIEC has supported the establishment and growth of universities in more than 40 countries around the world and serves as a J visa sponsor for academic programs, supporting the diverse needs of its partners. For more information, visit TIEC.org. For examples of our programs, visit [TIEC News](#).

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