

# **Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi**

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## **Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Creates International Education Office for Student Support and Global Presence**

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – Building a global presence on campus is the focus of the new Office of International Education (OIE) at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

The OIE, which began serving the campus international student community in December, is geared to helping international students adjust to the United States culture and ensuring they succeed in the classroom. In addition, the OIE oversees the Study Abroad Program, which arranges exchanges among students and faculty who desire to study at universities in other countries.

“Bringing a global presence to university life supports student understanding of how connected we are throughout the world,” said University President and CEO Flavius C. Killebrew. “Our domestic students benefit greatly when exposed to diverse cultures and these experiences support our internationalization of the campus. In turn, we’ll provide students with opportunities to enhance their education through the exploration of other countries and cultures.”

The OIE provides guidance and assistance with numerous campus offices and service providers and organizes international events and social activities to engage students in campus life.

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Killebrew said that the creation of the OIE comes at a time when international student attendance at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi has skyrocketed. Today, more than 300 of the 9,000 students at the University are from other countries, whereas just five years ago there were around 50 international students enrolled.

The OIE also serves the more than 180 students in the English as a Second Language International program. The OIE is located in the University Center and serves students now representing 42 countries. The office, part of Academic Affairs, will also promote international diversity throughout the campus.

“The number of international students at the University is on the rise every semester,” said Dr. Robert Nelsen, associate vice president for Academic Affairs. “Creating an Office of International Education is crucial to the University, where these students will receive the support, connections and opportunities they need to successfully assimilate into their new environment.”

A Study Abroad Spring Fair planned for Monday, Feb. 2, will help create awareness of the many international opportunities available to Texas A&M-Corpus Christi students.

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