

**From:** President's Office

**Sent:** Monday, November 15, 2010 5:38 PM

**To:** STUDENTS Distribution List; Stephenville FACULTY Distribution List; Stephenville STAFF Distribution List

**Subject:** Tarleton Core Values - Global Awareness

Students and Colleagues:

India and South Korea. Two stops on President Obama's Asia trip last week, and two nations featured in International Week programming. We are once again reminded of the intersection between world events and life at Tarleton.

Several weeks ago I wrote to you about Tarleton's Core Values: Civility, Integrity, Engaged Learning and Global Awareness. I wrote particularly about my concern for the decrease in civility we are witnessing across the country and why it is important at Tarleton for the dignity of each individual to be valued and appreciated.

During International Week on campus, we are reminded that global awareness is one of the core values of our university and one of the essential competencies for success in a diverse community.

From Tarleton, you can see the world.

It is right here in our diverse faculty, staff, and student body. In the curriculum from international economics to art history, peace studies to music appreciation. Lectures, concerts, films, and campus activities celebrate many cultures.

Seize these opportunities to learn another language; enjoy the music, food, and art of another culture; explore a different view of world events past and present. Whether enrolling in an elective course about a region of the world in today's headlines or having a conversation with someone who grew up on another continent, your Tarleton education is enriched by extending your cultural boundaries beyond Texas to all corners of the world.

From Tarleton you can go anywhere as students and graduates.

The Study Abroad Office helps connect students to trips that meet their academic interests and financial circumstances. Walk on cobblestones. See historic sites that span the timeline of ancient civilizations. Sing in a centuries-old church. Make memories that will stay with you the rest of your life.

Each of us can expand our global awareness in small ways every day. Keep up with international news events. Make yourself conversant with global issues. The world is changing – including place names. Revisit that map you memorized in middle school. Attend a cross-cultural program on campus. Take in a foreign film. Change channels to check out Travel, National Geographic, History, and others that regularly give us a look at places and faces around the world.

Reviewing *In Motion: The Experience of Travel* by Tony Hiss in *The New York Times Book Review* November 7, 2010, travel author William Dalrymple wrote that being in places and situations that are unfamiliar opens our minds "...to the world and its sensations, bringing about an enhanced sense of perception. Such travel can also allow us to rediscover parts of our own selves that are normally obscured by the humdrum routines of daily life."

Seeing yourself as a citizen of a wider world makes our communities more civil, more welcoming, and more effective. It increases your opportunities. It is part of becoming an educated person.

From Duck Camp to Commencement – if we have fulfilled our mission and if you have been engaged in learning – then you will be better informed about cultures beyond your own. You will have a global view and be prepared for a more connected world.

And, during International Week, you may even have seen a Texan cricket match!

F. Dominic Dottavio, Ph.D.

President