

Excerpt: International Week Address – Fall, 2008

Thanks to all who have made International Week at Tarleton possible.



During the past two months, I identified four important strategic goals for the university.

One of those is to *Expand Our Horizons*. This goal tells us that it is the role and responsibility of higher education to provide a broad-based educational experience for our students and to offer opportunities for them to understand and to experience different cultures and communities.

This is something I learned first-hand by my own travels and by my daughter's study abroad opportunities. She participated in five international study experiences while in high school and college – in part, I suppose, to get away from mom and dad. She studied in Australia, Oxford, Italy (twice) and China. She was changed by each of these study travel experiences. The lens through which she viewed her life here was changed. These were pivotal parts of her education. Her dream job would now be to be responsible for coordinating International programs at a university. She understands, as do many of you, that a global perspective is a requirement for success – both as individual citizens and for the country as a whole. If we are to prepare our graduates for success in their careers, we must expand cultural competence and global awareness.

International Week at Tarleton provides us with a forum for celebrating the many ways that this campus is enriched by students from some 25 different nations. The students from these nations provide a wonderful educational opportunity for our students.

You bring the world to Stephenville and help to prepare students to be leaders in their careers and communities.

Thank you for *Expanding our Horizons*.