Almost 19 percent of Arlington's population is foreign-born

Posted Monday, Mar. 28, 2011

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ARLINGTON -- Though he is 7,000 miles away from his family in Jordan, Mohammad Al-abed said he feels at home in Arlington community.

Al-abed moved to Arlington in 2004 on a student visa to study biomedical engineering at the University of Texas at Arlington.

"There is a huge international community in Arlington," said the 31-year-old, who graduated with a master's degree and is now his Ph.D. "I do feel like this is my home. You never feel that you are an outsider."

It's easy to see why he doesn't feel alone. Nearly 19 percent of Arlington's population is foreign-born, a greater percentage than most other Tarrant County cities. Only Forest Hill, Haltom City and River Oaks have a higher percentage of foreign-born according to 2009 American Community Survey.

In the past decade, the white majority shrank from 67.7 percent to 59 percent. Meanwhile, the African-American population increased from 45,727 in 2000 to 68,792 in 2010. Arlington also has Tarrant County's second-largest Asian-American population at 24,826, about 2,800 fewer than Fort Worth.

The census also shows Arlington's Hispanic population grew 65 percent from 60,817 people in 2000 to 100,269 in 2010.

"Being a diversified city is very healthy for all of us. We learn to live together, work together and play together," Arlington Mayor Charles Cluck said. "Every diverse group of people brings something unique to the city."

Overall, the city grew about 10 percent in population.

Though not all census data have been released, Arlington's biggest growth is likely to be in the southeast. According to unofficial released by the city, the Arlington City Council District 3 in the southeast grew from 69,900 residents in 2000 to 97,900 in 2011.

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