

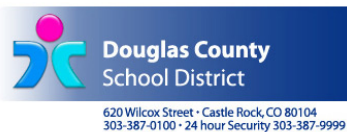
Summary Report

2007 Chinese Teacher Professional Development Workshop Teaching Chinese as a Second Language in the USA

Time: 10:00 AM Saturday Sept 8, 2007

Location: King Center at Auraria Campus, Downtown Denver

*On behalf of all the participants of the Conference
Here we would like to thank the host organization
Douglas County School District*



We would like to thank Douglas County School District World Language Coordinator, **Kate Blanas**, for her leadership and tremendous efforts that made the event a wonderful and valuable experience for all.

Executive Summary. Increasingly public K-12 schools across Colorado are expanding their foreign language education program to include Chinese Language and Culture. Most of the major public school districts provide Chinese program in their high schools and have expanded rapidly in last two years in Colorado. The need for qualified Chinese language teachers is rising rapidly; and the level of interest in establishing teaching Chinese as career is rising rapidly as well. Great Wall Chinese Academy initiated the open-to-public Chinese teachers training in 2006. It aimed to prepare Chinese teachers locally, share information and establish a Chinese teachers' network.

While the 2006 conference was hosted by Great Wall Chinese Academy and it provided 4.5 hours training with 45 participants, one keynote speaker, and 3 presenters, and it was sponsored by the education group from China Consulate General in Chicago, the 2007 conference was hosted by Douglas County School District and it provided 7.5 hours training with 97 participants, 2 keynote speakers, and 10 presenters, and it was sponsored by 7 local organizations. Immediately after the 2007 conference, we were able to establish a listserv with over 100 people. (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cochineseteachers/>)

Participants. Among the 2007 conference participants, about 70% are from Chinese heritage schools, 15% are from public schools, 10% are the people with variety of backgrounds but with an interest in teaching Chinese. We also had a group of 2 teachers from Florida Bay Area who flew into Denver to join the conference.



Keynote Speeches. The 2007 conference invited one American teacher and one Chinese teacher who teach Chinese in American schools now. They shared valuable information with audiences from their unique perspective.

1. **Understanding American Classrooms and Students**



Presented by keynote speaker Catherine Channell, a Chinese teacher from Douglas County Schools District who teaches in one high school and one middle school. As an American, Catherine gave a speech from a unique angle to help Chinese teachers to understand how to connect with students in the classroom, then teach and motivate students in learning Chinese, how important it is to bring students into our multicultural world to develop mutual respect and understanding via a sister school exchange program.

Catherine Channell: Catherine.Channell@dcsdk12.org

2. **Prepare curriculum, build-up teaching methodology, and adopt changes and cultural differences**



Presented by keynote speaker Shifang Hu, a HanBan teacher who is teaching in an Adams-12 district school, as a Chinese arrived America in less than a year, Shifang shared her understandings of 5Cs Content Standards in teaching and learning Chinese; shared her classroom teaching experience with American students, and demonstrated her rich classroom methods. You will see how important it is to quick adopt changes and culture differences when you teach a popular “上学歌” song. You teach “... 爱学习, 爱运动...” in America’s classroom while you teach “爱学习, 爱劳动” in China’s classroom.

Shifang Hu: hsfwales@yahoo.com.cn

Resource Sharing. The 2007 conference invited 10 presenters with a variety of backgrounds to share information and covered a broad range of topics in teaching Chinese as second language in American schools

1. **Confucius Institute of Community College in Denver**

With efforts from the host organization, the 2007 conference is a part of the grand opening celebration of the Confucius Institute in CCD. CCD provided the facility and all the equipments – for the conference. Jian Guatney from CCD and Guang Hu from Chong-Qing Three Gorges University introduced the Confucius Institute, whose aims are to promote Chinese language and culture, support local Chinese teaching, and enhancing cross-cultural and international economic exchange.

Jian Guatney: jianguatney3@hotmail.com

2. **Eduss Educational Software Solutions**

Eduss is an international company that provides innovative educational solutions. Two representatives from the company demonstrated its Chinese language-learning product.

Eduss website: www.eduss.com

3. **AP Chinese in USA, Establish Teaching Career as a Chinese Teacher**



Kate Blanas from Douglas County Schools District shared the information from College Board on piloting Internet-based AP Chinese Language and Culture exam in May 2007. She also shared information on what to prepare to be a public school teacher, what options are in Colorado to be a public school teacher, and how to prepare an interview. The information is valuable to many teachers who work in heritage schools and prepare them for teaching in public schools.

Kate Blanas: Kate.Blanas@dcsdk12.org

4. **Confucius Classroom in Denver**

Shaomei Cheng from GWCA introduced Confucius Classroom of Denver Chinese Culture Institute and Chinese American Post. Confucius Classroom shares the common mission with the Confucius Institute, while it is small sized with more focus on promoting Chinese education via teaching Chinese Calligraphy and other Chinese folk arts, organizing community activities and exchange programs for teachers and students.

Confucius Classroom: tuxinshi5@yahoo.com

5. **Colorado Chinese Language Teacher Consortium**

Shaomei Cheng from GWCA and Michelle Low from UNC introduced CCLTC, which is the professional organization for Chinese teachers in Colorado. CCLTC is devoted to advancing quality education in Chinese language and culture at all levels in the state of Colorado. It represents the interests of a wide range of teachers, students, and community members. It is affiliated with the Colorado Congress of Foreign Language Teachers.

CCLTC listserv: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CCLTC/>

6. **Foreign Language Day in University of Northern Colorado**

Michelle Low from UNC introduced the Foreign Language Day hosted in UNC for last 35 years that offers the opportunity for high school students to experience the second language and culture outside of the classroom in a fun and educational environment.

Michelle Low: Michelle.Low@unco.edu

7. **Denver Center for International Study of DPS**

Limei Ge from DCIS shared her rich classroom teaching experience. Her Chinese program at DCIS is one of the two oldest Chinese programs in Colorado high schools with over 10 years of history. Limei shared the information on the international exchange program at DCIS that is highly evaluated by both US Education department and China government. She led the group singing the 2008 Beijing Olympic song that infused more energy into the conference and made her speech more fun.

Limei Ge: gelimei@hotmail.com

8. **Help Public School to establish Chinese Program**

Jen Pan from Colorado Spring Chinese Language School shared her exciting experience to be part of

Great Wall Chinese Academy

• Web: www.greatwallchineseacademy.org • Email: info@greatwallchineseacademy.org

the pioneer work in opening of a public elementary school in Colorado Spring with Chinese program as a critical language component, and herself and another Chinese teacher became Chinese teachers in the school.

Jen Pan: jen@racewin.com

9. **How an American student learns Chinese in his school**

Matt Eley, a senior American student from Cherry Creek High School shared his experience in learning Chinese from a student prospective. His entire speech was made in fluent Chinese, which excited every participant in the conference. To see an American high school student speak a fluent Chinese after three years of learning from his high school inspired all the Chinese educators. The collaboration of disciplined teaching and hard efforts from students are the key to having a high school student be success in learning Chinese.

10. **Teach Chinese with TPRS**

Huiching Chen from Lincoln High School of DPS taught a lesson in the conference to use TPRS. Huiching has applied TPRS in her classroom successfully in many years. She believes TPRS is an efficient classroom methodology that works for other languages and it will work for teaching Chinese too.

Huiching Chen: annickchen2006@yahoo.com,

11. **Chinese Teacher Training Programs in China**

Yan Chen from Great Wall Chinese Academy, also a Chinese teacher in a JEFFCO school, shared her exciting learning experience from her three 2007 summer training programs in China, AP Chinese training by College Board, Chinese teachers training by Qiao Ban, Standard Chinese Textbook Conference by People Education Press.

Yan Chen: ary_chen@yahoo.com



Presenters: (left) Yan, Limei, Kate, Jen, Shifang, Catherine, Huiching, Mei

Conference Sponsors. Special thanks to all our generous sponsors who made the conference a pleasant experience for all with free Chinese lunch, free Chinese reference books, free facility and equipment, free tickets for the evening festivities, and free parking. Thank to our wonderful volunteers whose enthusiasm and assistance made this conference a success.

Bohua Chinese School

Confucius Institute

Confucius Classroom

Colorado Chinese Language School

Douglas County School District

Denver Chinese School

Eduss Education Software Solutions

Great Wall Chinese Academy

Conference Survey. A great number of the returned surveys mentioned their desire for future similar conferences, although a few participants suggested that more time should be allowed for networking. Overall, the survey results were extremely positive in all areas, from the food to the facility to the presenters.

Report Prepared By.

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Highlands Ranch, Colorado, USA