



The Center in Action **December 2004**

Center Recognized at the Great Hall in China

President Designate Lou Ann Simon led a delegation from Michigan State University to Beijing for the launch of an educational research partnership with China. The Hong Kong-based Sun Wah Education Foundation announced the collaboration at a formal press conference at the Great Hall of the People. The alliance begins with the establishment of two education centers – the “US-China Center for Research on Educational Excellence” at Michigan State University and the “China-US Education Research Center” at Beijing Normal University.

In his speech, Mr. Jonathan Choi, Founder and Chairman of the two Centers pointed out that it was the first of its kind in China for a private organization to initiate a project of such magnitude in the education field. The work of the two education Centers will focus on the synthesis of effective models for basic education by combining the efforts and resources of two top universities in China and the United States. By working together, the two Centers aim to learn from each country’s strengths and weaknesses.

Dr. Lou Ann Simon, Mr. Xu Jia Lu, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress, Mr. Jiang Pei Min, Director General for Basic Education of the Ministry of Education, Mr. Jonathan K. S. Choi, Member of the China’s People Political Consultative Conference and Chairman of Sun Wah Education Foundation, and Professor Zhong Bing Lin, President of the Beijing Normal University, presided over the formal proceedings.

Jonathan Choi (right) and Dr. Lou Anna Simon (left) at the unveiling ceremony at the Great Hall in China.



X-Pacific Website

A new template is being created for the X-Pacific website that will allow viewers to access graphical representations of the data that has been collected. The information on best practices in education will be made more easily accessible and easily interpretable. A forum will be added to facilitate discussion among educators and others viewing the website.



Hot Topics in Education

Hot Topics in Education is a free, bi-weekly email service designed to relay current information and resources on topics of education in the United States and China. This service is targeted at educators, administrators, researchers, and parents interested in issues of excellence in k-12 education. Click on the “Hot Topic” link on the US-China Homepage to register for the service.



Culturally-Sensitive Achievement Tests

The Center is partnering with the Project PROM/SE (Promoting Rigorous Outcomes in Mathematics and Science Education) group to develop cross-cultural achievement tests in K-12 math and science. The tests were created by the PROM/SE Group to measure student and teacher knowledge in these subjects, following criticism from the educational community regarding the cultural sensitivity of achievement tests. The Center will be involved in translating the tests into Chinese. In addition, tests created for teachers will allow researchers to understand the impact of pedagogical knowledge, content knowledge, and social networks on student learning.

This project allows us to understand fundamental issues of education today. Pilot testing of the instruments will begin in China in early Spring 2005. This activity is connected with the National Curriculum Center.



Dictionary of Educational Terms

The Center is currently compiling educational terms to create an updated Chinese dictionary. Current Chinese educational dictionaries are outdated. We hope this project will facilitate a clearer understanding of American educational terms for international students wishing to study or better understand the US education system.



Up-Coming Events

- ✓ Representatives from the Center will attend the **Curriculum Conference** in San Francisco January 30 through February 2, 2005. There, the Center will begin its initial development of a framework for implementing a dual-language preschool program in the United States.
- ✓ An **Advisory Board Meeting** has been called for February 9 -11, 2005 at the Kellogg Center on MSU's campus. Theme leaders from MSU and distinguished guests from around the world will be invited to attend this meeting to discuss issues of education reform and Center activities.
- ✓ In July 2005, the Center will co-host an **education reform conference** at the Kellogg Center on MSU's campus. The purpose of the leadership conference is to discuss issues of education reform.

The Center in Action is the monthly newsletter of the **US-China Center for Research on Educational Excellence**. The newsletter is designed to document and disseminate information on the Center's activities.