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2017 Virginian Startalk Chinese Teacher Academy

From 2013-2015, I have worked in Intensive English Center (IEC) at Saint Cloud State University and it has been a wonderful learning experience personally and professionally. I came into the TESL program wanting to learn more about bilingual education but after three years, I have developed a different agenda. I want to make an impact on student's lives and inspire them to reach their full potential by offering language instruction. As a bilingual, bicultural person myself, I hope my students are benefit from learning to be global citizens. I have done my best in doing this as a graduate teaching assistant and I started to teach Mandarin Chinese in Rosemount High School since 2016.

I had the pleasure of working under the IEC director and the TESL director who have helped me in more ways than one. They have motivated me to become a better teacher and move forward within teacher development. I have taught a variety of classes, such as Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing, Structure, Cultural Orientation, and Vocabulary in Intensive English Center. My students were from more than ten different countries in the world. By working with them, I learned that every cultural phenomenon is unique. Culture needs to be integrated into language instruction. Language learning helps better understand the culture.

Currently, I have about 90 students in five different proficiency levels. As the Chinese program facilitator, I have reached out to local Chinese organizations such as, Chinese traditional dress association, Erhu music instrument club and chess club. As the chapter leader for National Chinese Honor Society, I'm very happy to see our students have enjoyed volunteering to teach Chinese in afterschool sessions in Rosemount Elementary School.