

2011 Virginia STARTALK Chinese Teacher Academy
Kuanchen Pearson

I am so thrilled to be able to attend this "The 2011 Virginia STARTALK Chinese Teacher Academy to enhance my own professional growth and continue to develop the best practices for my FLES classroom audits. This STARTALK program will also train me to use the latest and most advanced pedagogies and utilize the new electronic resources. In addition, it will allow me to make connections with other professional Chinese language teachers. Participating in this 2011 Virginia STARTALK Chinese Teacher Academy will be of great practical value in refining my own teaching approach and methods.

When I am teaching, I will use learning strategies to help students attain the goals with the 5 Cs (Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons and Communities) of the Foreign Language Learning Standards, Using a learner-centered strategy. Students would be able to draw on their own experiences from daily life to develop insights into the nature of a new language and culture. Real objects, visuals, and other meaningful projects are used to introduce students to the new language. Through these means, students will be encouraged to gain an understanding of the nature of the new language and culture by comparing the Chinese language and culture to their own.

In terms of outcomes, foreign language learning gives students tools to **communicate** in authentic settings, develop their understanding of the **cultural** contexts of the target language, employ their ability to make **connections** to knowledge through the target language, and obtain insights through making **comparisons** across languages and cultures, and be a lifelong participant in multilingual **communities**.