

## **2017 Virginia Startalk Chinese Teacher Academy**

**Ai Shi**

### **Cover page**

I have been teaching Chinese to all kinds of students since 2009 when I was a senior in Central China Normal University. With the supervision and help of experienced teachers, I have been growing to be a Chinese teacher with passion and classroom teaching experience after two years of teaching in the university. All students were so engaged in learning Chinese and some of them spent their four years in China learning Chinese and then found a job living in China later on. After that, I came to the U.S. and taught two years of high school Chinese 1 classes in Confucius Institute at the University of Kansas. Different teaching situations and new ideas of pedagogy made my teaching more effective and I feel I could meet the needs of diverse learners. With the comparison and thoughts based on teaching Chinese in China and in the U.S., I have explored more different approaches to reach my students and get them engaged in classes.

Confucius said that, “Better to love knowing than to know it, better to enjoy knowing than to love it”. For teachers and students, to enjoy what we teach and what we learn is the highest level of what we are doing. So my teaching philosophy is to make teaching interesting and useful for myself first, then to make learning engaging and useful for students so that I could help to prepare them for the future.