

Nai-I H. Finney 胡乃懿

In June 2005, I received my bachelor of science degree in Psychology at National Taiwan University. After I graduated, I went to Thailand to teach Chinese at Samruk Christian Academy, a boarding school for first through twelfth graders. With my limited knowledge of the Thai language, teaching Chinese to Thai teenagers was challenging, but I discovered I had great interest in teaching Chinese to speakers of other languages. Later, when I went to Oklahoma to pursue further studies, I continued to develop my teaching skills as a volunteer Chinese instructor at the Oklahoma City Chinese School and as a Chinese tutor at Oklahoma City Community College. During my graduate studies at University of Kansas (KU), I sought new opportunities to practice the teaching methods I was learning in the program. To that end, I worked as a GTA in the East Asian Language and Culture Department, as a substitute teacher for KU's Confucius Institute, and as a Chinese teacher in a summer language immersion camp (Middlebury-Monterey Language Academy) in Vermont. Additionally, during the summer of 2008, I returned to Taiwan and passed the Certification Examination for Proficiency in Teaching Chinese as a Second/Foreign Language.

In May 2011, I received my master's degree in Curriculum & Teaching, as well as a teaching license in Chinese with an ESOL endorsement. In August 2011, I started teaching Chinese at Topeka High School in Kansas. After one year of teaching, I wanted to improve my teaching strategies and methods. Therefore, I applied for and participated in the 2012 Virginia STARTALK Chinese Teacher Academy. This program equipped me with many contemporary theories and methods, which I would like to practice in the coming school year.