

Shihong Zhang Cover Page

As a Chinese, I will always remember my root no matter where I am. After I immigrated to the United States of America in 1998, I have been involved with many activities promoting Chinese language and culture. I started with teaching Chinese at a weekend nonprofit New Jersey Huaxia Chinese School (HXCS), being an editor for a New Jersey Chinese publication 'Hanxin Monthly' and a reporter for a Chinese Newspaper 'World Daily', then becoming a principal for a branch of HXCS and academic dean for HXCS headquarter. Though I was trained as math teacher and taught high school math full time at a New Jersey Public School, I volunteered to start the Chinese Program at the same school to promote Chinese Language and Culture in 2009. The program expanded from one class to three in three years. It became a Confucius Classroom in 2010. The first ever 'Glen Ridge China Night' for the community had received very positive response. I am very happy with the achievement. However I feel I still have a lot to learn from others and further my knowledge so I can be a better language teacher and program leader, especially my teaching experience in non-Chinese students is mainly from teaching mathematics. In my personal experience, there are many differences in teaching mathematics and language as second language. I need to learn more on organizing teaching material, planning classroom activities, utilizing culture stories to improve the language learning, managing classroom, and building a suitable series of Chinese courses. I was so glad to be accepted into the Startalk program. It is very intensive, but really helpful. This program empowered us with most recent second language acquisition theories as well as practical methods, classroom skills, which I would like to apply in the coming school year.