Wenyen (Winnie) Tung

"Transformation" is the best word to describe my journey in this program. The major goals I came to 2012 Startalk Chinese Academy program are teaching Chinese in the target language and integrated performance assessment. Spending 3-week intensive schedule delving into the art of teaching, this program expanded my instruction skills to more communicative instruction strategies. It also enriched and deepened my knowledge and helped me make a complete breakthrough from the traditional teacher centered activities to a more innovative, functional and effective teaching approach and practice.

I enjoyed Startalk UVA well-designed courses, observation professional teachers and teaching practicum. I learned the communicative instructional strategies. I will design my lessons in more meaningful and communicative ways. Students will have interactive conversations, movements and hands-on tasks. Backward design approach helps me to design the curriculum in a logical sequence within the larger framework. I will deliver the lesson units from the results sought. It make more clear what relevant goals with this design and what students should understand from this unit. I will design a student-centered assessment system that measures the individual learning capabilities of all students. Through the well designed rubric, I can find out where students are and how they are progressing what they have learned. Students can demonstrate their learning and apply information to their real-life situation.

I had many of the education foundation pieces in place and the STARTALK program at UVA really has enriched and deepened my knowledge. I have learned so many practices from Dr. Tseng and veteran teachers. "Rooting deeper, growing stronger". Once I was a caterpillar. Now I break through the cocoon. I will be a butterfly. Thank you for guidance and mentoring to make my wings stronger. I believe that with the skills and experiences I was equipped with, I am able to work as part of the movement with my love for the Chinese language and culture embedded in my gratitude for the opportunities and success I have been able to achieve.

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