

# Professional Goals

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Long ago, a school administrator told a group of young teachers; “If you think teaching is a job, you should find something else to do, but if you have a passion for teaching, then you’ve made the right choice.” I was one of those young teachers, and five years later, I am so happy to have made the right choice!

Teaching has required me to accept and to conquer many exciting challenges. From properly evaluating which textbooks are the best for the class, to assessing the special needs of students, the days are always full. The evenings are often spent thinking about classroom management techniques and how to continue building enrollment for Chinese language courses. Attending many various workshops, teaching conferences and furthering my professional education have helped me along the way.

When I first began teaching, the goal I’d set for myself was to be the best Chinese teacher in the history of the world. Unrealistic of course, but even today, I still chase that same goal, and will probably chase it for many years to come. The progress is steady and rewarding, and occasionally, I have my own little “great leap forward”.

The key to my continuing happiness with teaching is “life long learning” for both my students and I together.

*“If you talk to a man in a language that he understands, that goes to his head. But if you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart.” (Nelson Mandela)*