



COVER LETTER

Yanhong Li
Randallstown High School
Baltimore County Public School
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My name is Yanhong Li. I had my bachelor degree from Guangxi Teacher's College in China, Master degree from Marian University in Wisconsin. I also graduated from Edgewood College for my ESL teaching license and University of Wisconsin-Madison for my Chinese teacher's license.

I have been a teacher for all my life back in China and in the USA. I taught English in the public school in China for over 19 years. In 2002 I moved to the USA, first worked as Chinese Specialist in ESL department in Madison Metropolitan School District. After I had my Chinese teaching license in 2007, I moved to Sheboygan to start Chinese program there in the high school. The next year, I started the Chinese program at University of Wisconsin-Sheboygan. In 2009, I moved to Maryland to work as a full time Chinese teacher at the high school. While I worked in the public school, I started some evening program in the weekend and evening.

Even though I have taught Chinese for over 9 years in the public and private school, I feel most of time I work alone by myself with little support. My teaching style mostly remained in the traditional foreign language teaching in the classroom. This year I am so glad I was selected to attend the UVA StarTalk program. Dr. Tseng's 100% target language for world language classroom impressed me the most. I was surprised I taught three classes in 100% Chinese language to the students who have no Chinese background which prove that total target language can be used in the beginning level.

I will make all my effort to use the methods I learned from the program in my future class. I will definitely pass the words around the teachers and the county about UVA Startalk.



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teaching Chinese for over years, first as a volunteer teacher at a local heritage school, then as a K-12 Chinese language teacher at my current school in Upstate New York. I love teaching Chinese because this is a beautiful language, and also this is a language that I speak the best.

However, just because Chinese is my native tongue doesn't mean I can just teach it well. I often find out that it is very challenging to bring my knowledge into best practices. Often, students find Chinese difficult and different, plus, they can't find convenient learning environment like Spanish and French learners. Therefore, it poses a greater challenge for Chinese language teacher to be more creative in enriching the students and encouraging them to keep practicing what they have learned.

Further, since Chinese is a relatively new addition to the k-12 education, a lot of Chinese teachers might be the only teacher in the whole school, teaching a whole range of students of different ages. Therefore, teaching Chinese is often a lonely journey, with lots of teachers not having enough support system to become a great educator.

Therefore, I'm so happy to be accepted into this University of Virginia StarTalk program. It provides me much needed professional development opportunity and training. Even though right now, it's just half into the program, I felt that I have learned so much from the teachers and fellow students. The practicum and hands-on teaching experience has helped me grow leap and bound.

I want to use this opportunity to thank StarTalk, UVA for giving me this precious opportunity. I'll do my best in contributing back by becoming a better Chinese language teacher.