About the Confucius Institute

The Confucius Institute at the University of Utah (CIUU) was officially established on October 23, 2007 in cooperation with Sichuan University, China. CIUU’s current director is Professor Fusheng Wu of the University of Utah, working in partnership with the CIUU’s Chinese co-director, Professor Li Lei from Sichuan University, China.

With an increase in funding (including a $110,000 grant from Hanban), the Institute successfully expanded its reach during 2010. Key achievements and activities for the year include the following:

CHINESE LANGUAGE LEARNING

In 2010, the Confucius Institute provided a broad audience with a wide range of Chinese language learning opportunities.

CIUU is actively involved in offering Chinese language and culture courses at different levels at the University of Utah, from beginning Mandarin to advanced Chinese literature. Additionally, CIUU offers Mandarin Chinese coursework through the University’s Continuing Education program, meeting the needs of community members who are interested in learning Chinese, but who are not officially enrolled at the University. These courses are promoted throughout the community to education leaders, students and parents at the elementary and secondary levels (junior high through high school). This effort by CIUU to reach out to the community has played an important role in strengthening CIUU’s Chinese program. In 2010 the University offered seven unique courses in Chinese language and civilization to the students of the University of Utah and the community.

CULTURAL EXCHANGE AND PROMOTION

In addition to teaching Chinese language, CIUU also plays a critical role in helping Americans understand China’s rich culture and friendly people. With this in mind, CIUU hosted a variety of events and cultural activities throughout the year.

These included, but were not limited to, the following:

- A February 17
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concert by the CCTV choir, held in Abravanel Hall (downtown Salt Lake City). 2,500 people attended this very successful concert.

- A series of Chinese New Year performances was held February 20th in the Utah Museum of Fine Arts on the University of Utah campus. The performances attracted more than 2,000 people.

- On February 26th, dancers from CCTV and Neimenggu Autonomous Region performed Chinese dances to traditional Chinese music.

- From March 28 to April 2, CIUU hosted the annual “Chinese Culture Week” at the University and the Salt Lake City Library. During this week, three lectures were given by well-known professors on: 1) changing values of Chinese youth, 2) Chinese influence on modern poetry, and 3) translations of Chinese poetry.

- Chinese Culture Week provides a great opportunity for the community to appreciate and enjoy traditional Chinese folk music. Additionally, the film Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon was screened. Also, a large number of students took part in a speech competition that was held on March 30; the winner received a scholarship from Sichuan University to study Chinese there for one semester.

- Enhanced relationships with local media and community groups also resulted from these activities.
TEACHER TRAINING
In 2010 the Confucius Institute offered five separate teacher workshops (held in May, June, August, October, November, and December). The weeklong workshops in May and June aimed to train local Chinese instructors of high schools and primary schools. In these workshops teachers learned new techniques and additional knowledge to use for their classes. The workshops held in August, October, November, and December focused on training Hanban teachers across a broad range of topics including course standardization, curriculum design, teaching pedagogies, course evaluation, classroom management, and the AP Chinese program.

BOOK FAIR AND PREPARATION OF TEACHING MATERIALS
On November 11, in the 2010 Annual Meeting of Utah Foreign Language Association (UFLA), CIUU exhibited our collection of Chinese language and culture learning resources including books, textbooks, dictionaries, and DVDs to over 600 people in attendance.

Of interest, CIUU is currently collaborating with the Utah State Office of Education and the Asia Center of the University of Utah on the compilation of a bilingual textbook, Step by Step, for use by first and second grade teachers and students in a number of Utah's elementary schools.

CHINESE CULTURE CENTER AND LIBRARY HOLDINGS
The CIUU formally unveiled the Chinese Culture Corner in the lobby of the Languages and Communications Building at the University of Utah on April 15. This touch-screen exhibition offers an interactive multi-media introduction to Chinese culture.

The Culture Corner, together with the establishment of the Confucius Institute library holdings in the University's Marriott Library, has greatly enhanced the awareness and reputation of CIUU throughout the University.

SCHOLARSHIPS
In 2010, CIUU obtained five scholarships for students of the University of Utah to study in China. One recipient is now pursuing a master of arts degree in Chinese literature at Sichuan University, fully supported by a Confucius Institute scholarship.

Summary
In 2010, CIUU offered seven courses on Chinese language and civilization, hosted 12 Chinese culture events and lectures with more than 15,000 people in attendance, obtained five scholarships for University of Utah students to study in China, and ran five teacher-training workshops for the education community in Utah.

As we enter the new year, we are confident that the CIUU will continue to play a crucial role in promoting Chinese language and culture both on the campus of the University of Utah and in the community. We appreciate your continued support.
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