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The Confucius Institute at Western Michigan University Held HSK Test

The Confucius Institute at Western Michigan University held HSK Test at WMU main campus on August 5, 2018. Two students took two different proficiency level tests in the morning and afternoon.

CI at WMU Welcomed New Kalamazoo Area Volunteer Teachers

Five new volunteer teachers arrived safely at Kalamazoo airport on August 9, 2018. Confucius Institute at Western Michigan University office staff and teacher picked them up at the airport and welcomed them to the new sweet home at Kalamazoo. The CI staff and teacher helped the new volunteer teachers shopping and settling in the new home.

Kalamazoo Area Volunteer Teachers Attended KPS New Teacher Orientation

The Kalamazoo area teachers attended four-day Kalamazoo Public School District New teachers’ orientation from August 13th to 16th. The Superintendent of the school district welcomed the new teachers at the orientation and praised the WMU CI teachers’ for their
excellent work in teaching Chinese and the contribution to the local schools and community. Then the head of the teaching department, the head of the network management department, some school representatives, and the police from the school district gave information on the teaching guidelines, classroom management, school district teaching status, classroom and teaching network application, and students and teachers safety instructions. During the orientation, the teachers not only got the chance to understand the comprehensive situation of the local classrooms and teaching system, but also gained knowledge about the actual classroom management and teaching methodology.

**New Grand Rapids Area Volunteer Teachers Arrived in Michigan**

Five new Grand Rapids area volunteer teachers arrived safely at Grand Rapids airport on August 16, 2018. Parents Association’s representative from the Forest Hills Public School District and CI teacher, Mingchen Zhao welcomed them at the airport and sent them to their Grand Rapids home. Ms. Zhao helped new teachers with shopping and introduced them to the landlord. The new teachers learned how to operate in their new home and navigate in the neighborhood.

**The Assistant Director Linjia Jiang Resigned**

August 10 is the last work day of the Assistant Director Linjia Jiang at CI. New CI volunteer teachers attended the warm farewell party Haenicke Institute held for Linjia.

**CI Director Attended Chinese Immersion Forum**

On August 13, 2018, CI Director Dr. Ying Zeng attended Chinese Immersion Forum at the CI at Michigan State University. At the Forum, Dr. Zeng met with two Principals from Forest Hills Public School District and discussed about the working plan of the new academic year.

**All Volunteer Teachers Attended CI at WMU New Teacher Orientation**

The CI at WMU new teachers’ orientation was hosted by CI Director, Dr. Ying Zeng at WMU main campus from August 20th to 21st. On the first day, Dr. Zeng welcomed all the teachers and introduced the CI office staff and colleagues from Haenick Institute for Global Education who work closely with CI. HIGE’s Business Manager Annette Cummins introduced WMU rules and regulations. Dr. Zeng then shared detail information on WMU, the differences between Chinese and American culture and customs, and particularly introduced the US K-12 education system, American youth culture and campus culture, and the matters needing attention in teaching and daily life. CI Chinese Director Dr. Wenfang Sun introduced the general information and regulation of CI at WMU. Ms. Janice VanderVusse from HIGE WMU gave a presentation on the US medical insurance information and how to use medical insurance. In the afternoon, Dr. Zeng led all teachers to a WMU campus tour and drove to South Heaven to see the Lake of Michigan. The teachers not only enjoyed the beautiful natural scenery from the trip, but also learned the local customs, and more importantly, established mutual understanding and friendship.
On the second day, HIGE’s Director of Immigration and Services Lee Ryder, and the Assistant Director Tara Severine gave the teachers’ orientation on J-1 visas. It covered the important J-1 visa information, cross-cultural communication issues, problems J1 teachers may encounter in teaching, and some travel information. WMU security officer Sara Helmer gave a presentation on important general public safety information.

Grand Rapids Area Teachers Attended FHPS Open House Event

All the CI teachers from Grand Rapids area attended the two-day Forest Hills Public School Open House event from August 22nd to 23rd. They met the partner teachers and some student families. During the event, volunteer teachers got familiar with local students and families and learned more about their partner teachers. The teachers were well prepared for the upcoming Chinese teaching.

CI Held the First Fall Teachers and Staff Meeting

The first fall CI teachers and staff meeting was hosted by the Director at the Ellsworth Hall on August 24th. Dr. Ying Zeng, Dr. Wenfang Sun, CI staff, and all CI teachers and volunteer teachers from Kalamazoo area attended the meeting. The meeting mainly discussed the cultural activity plan for the fall semester, including Bronco Bash, Mid-Autumn Festival, Global Confucius Institute Day, China Festival, Chinese contemporary photo exhibition, workshops at Friendship Village, K-12 culture activity, WMU International Education Week, Chinese Clubs, Chinese song competition, Chinese painting and calligraphy competition, and etc. Each activity was assigned with a teacher as the main coordinator.

CI Held the First Fall Operation Meeting

The first fall operation meeting was held on August 27 at Ellsworth Hall room 2530. Dr. Ying Zeng, Dr. Wenfang Sun, and the program coordinator Mei Lin attended the meeting. The meeting mainly discussed about the problems caused by one volunteer teacher’s visa issue, and the
increasing difficulties for visa applications. The meeting also discussed about the plan of recruiting teachers in 2019, and the preparation for the 2018 CI Board meeting.

**CI Participated in WMU’s Bronco Bash with Chinese Cultural Exhibition and Hand on Activities**

CI at WMU participated in the annual Bronco Bash on August 28, to promote traditional Chinese culture and CI programs. The teachers displayed many cultural items and designed many activities to attract the WMU students. Li Sun was responsible for the overall coordination. Aiyun Zhang was responsible for consulting with CI cultural classes. Qin Chen took charge of the Chinese chess experience. Songtao Zhang taught Chinese knots. Ye Su gave a traditional costume show. Shuying Zhang taught paper-cutting. Zaibang Shi dressed as a panda. Ying Yang organized the shuttlecock game. Ka Du performed the Tai Chi fan. Hua Zhang was responsible for taking pictures. The volunteers from CSSA also assisted. Many students and families visited CI’s booths, and showed interests. CI teachers also gave out the flyers for the upcoming Fall cultural classes, and the China Festival. The event was a great success.

![Image of CI Bronco Bash activities]

**Kalamazoo Area Volunteer Teachers Attended Kalamazoo High Schools New Teacher Orientation**

Volunteer teachers who will teach at the Kalamazoo high schools attended two-day high school orientation from August 27 to 28. The high school principals and teachers shared the experience of Kalamazoo high schools’ teaching environment, high school classroom management, teaching preparation and precautions, high school classroom teaching skills, and Internet security issues. The CI teachers actively participated in the discussions and learned a lot of knowledge to apply to the upcoming high school Chinese teaching.

**CI Held the First Fall Budget Meeting**

CI held the first fall budget meeting on August 31, at the second floor conference room of Ellsworth Hall. Dr. Ying Zeng, Dr. Wenfang Sun, Ms. Mei Lin, and HIGE Business Manager Annette Cummins, Budget Analyst Billie Blake and Alison Sachse attended the meeting.