

## ***The Center in Action*** **Winter 2006**

### **Education for Global Citizenship (EGC) Schools**

#### Program Expansion



The EGC program continues to develop and grow. We are excited to welcome Traverse City Area Public Schools (TCAPS) to our partnership. TCAPS has developed an implementation plan for incorporating immersion Chinese into their preschool and elementary programs. They are adopting a growth rate of one grade per year starting with opening the preschool component for the 2007/2008 school year and expanding into elementary school

the following year.

The Lansing School District preschool program continues to grow and expand. There have been several visits from state officials such as Michigan's State Superintendent Mike Flanagan and officials from the Michigan School Readiness Program (MSRP). The positive feedback is encouraging for continuing early age second language acquisition.

The Lansing site has already started recruitment for the 07/08 school year. The preschool is almost full with only a couple of remaining slots available. The kindergarten is open for in-district school of choice. One classroom is filled and the second room is starting to fill up. They are also hoping to draw students from other districts that are interested in learning Chinese.

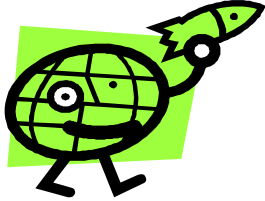
#### Curriculum Development



The EGC curriculum continues with development and evaluation. Data collection and analysis continues at the preschool level while the kindergarten curriculum is getting set for implementation next year at the Lansing site. Members of the Confucius Institute are starting to compile the curriculum in order to publish the program.

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## Confucius Institute Summer Camp



Chinese language and cultural learning opportunities will be available to Michigan youths through summer camps. Children will participate in language instruction paired with hands-on cultural activities such as brush painting, paper cutting, and tai chi in order to practice using the Chinese language.

## Confucius Institute



In the past three months, Confucius Institute at Michigan State University (CI-MSU) has made a lot of progress in developing new Chinese language and culture learning materials, offering online Chinese courses and conducting research on teaching Chinese as a foreign language.

1. Chinese Cultural Exploratory Curriculum: CI-MSU has developed 20 units for the Chinese cultural exploratory curriculum, each unit focusing on one particular cultural topic. Each unit has a 5-8 minute video introduction of the topic, and is followed up with group discussions and hands-on activities.
2. One-Word-A-Day: CI-MSU has also developed the One-Word-a-Day program. Learning materials for approximately 100 Chinese characters have been developed with plans to continue expanding the program materials.
3. Chinese Podcasting: More than 30 units of Chinese podcasting and telecasting materials have been developed. These podcasting materials are available on the Confucius Institute website ([www.confucius.msu.edu](http://www.confucius.msu.edu)).
4. High School Courseware: The sample unit for the online high school courseware has been finished. With the design model being finalized, the courseware is ready to speed up on its progress.
5. Michigan Virtual High School: With the start of the new semester, CI-MSU has been collaborating with MVHS and is currently offering three levels of online Chinese courses to high school students. These students are both from within Michigan and from other states such as Ohio and South Carolina. CI-MSU is offering online Chinese courses for approximately 140 students this semester. In addition, CI-MSU has started researching the on online Chinese instruction in order to obtain a deeper understanding of online Chinese students' learning strategies and processes so as to better serve the community of online Chinese learners.

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CI-MSU attended the first annual US-CI meeting, and has got acknowledged for its current progress and its future development direction.

### Delegation from CCRTRU Visited CI-MSU and US-China Center



Delegations from our collaborator, China Central Radio and TV University (CCRTVU), joined the CI-MSU and US-China team for two weeks to work together on some of projects so as to achieve reach common understandings on the design principles of the projects and to facilitate better collaboration in future work.

### Delegation from Shanghai Pudong Software Park Visited CI-MSU and US-China Center



Shanghai Pudong Software Park, situated in Zhangjiang High-tech Industrial park, is co-established by CEC and Shanghai municipal government, with registered capital of RMB 80 million RMB. Since its establishment in March, 2002, Pudong Software Park has built up a park occupying 120,000 square meters, and it sees positive tendency in business invitation and industrial service; the occupied area will reach 580, 000 square meters pursuant to the third-stage programming. Hundreds of famous domestic or overseas enterprises have registered for entrance and their main operations ranges from software development, chip design, information security, information service, system integration, electronic commerce, software export and various other IT industries. At present, Pudong Software Park has been approved by the state as “National Software Industry Base” and “National Software Export Base”.

The delegations members were very excited to visit our EGC program at Post Oak Elementary School at Lansing Michigan. Meanwhile, they also paid a visit to the Michigan State Department of Education and Michigan Virtual University/High School, our dedicated partner.

During their visit, the delegation members were better able to understand each other’s current projects and discuss potential future project collaborations.

### Scholar from Beijing Normal University Visited US-China Center



Professor Mang Li, Head of Educational Technology Department, College of Educational Information, Beijing Normal University, paid a two-day visit to our Center. The purpose of his visit was to explore possible collaboration and student exchange programs.



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During his visit, he met Dr. Yong Zhao, Dr. Wenzhong (Eric) Yang, and additional staff members.

*The Center in Action* is the quarterly newsletter of the **US-China Center for Research on Educational Excellence**. The newsletter is designed to document and disseminate information on the Center's activities.