

Teacher Training Workshop

The Confucius Institute at Webster University (WUCI) held its annual Teacher Training Workshop for area K-12 Chinese Teachers on Saturday August 17. This annual workshop is one of the ways in which the WUCI fulfills its mission of supporting Chinese teaching in the local area and facilitating deep levels of cultural exchange.

The training this year was divided into morning and afternoon sessions. In the morning session, teachers Weiwei Chien and Xuan Chen from Chaminade College Preparatory School gave a talk on the Teaching with Comprehensible Input (TCI) and Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling (TPRS) methods of foreign language instruction. For this, the WUCI invited seven Webster University students and employees with no background knowledge in Chinese to attend a demo class in which Mrs. Chien demonstrated her methods. These methods stressed at least 90% use of Chinese and 100% comprehension as well as strong connections between the teacher and learners. The students learned an impressive amount of Chinese in a short period, including how to read the Chinese characters that represent the high-frequency words they learned. Mrs. Chien followed this demo by a discussion of the underpinning theory to those methods.

In the afternoon session, Yanhong Zheng of Fayette County Public Schools in Kentucky spoke on classroom management techniques and effective teaching activities. Classroom management is a topic particularly important for Chinese teachers, who often encounter cultural differences in this aspect of their work. Teachers came away from this session with a new array of techniques to try out in their own classrooms.



Top left: Check in
Bottom left: Participants take a group photo

Top and bottom right: Weiwei Chien gives a demo lesson using TCI