

## Dr. Bice Met CIT Staff and Professors of Troy University

Feb. 17th, 2015, Dr. Bice, the Superintendent of Alabama State Department of Education, met Dr. Xu, the Director of CIT and Ms. Qiu, the program coordinator of CIT on Montgomery Campus and Dr. Feng from the College of Education of Troy University.

It was on the occasion of celebrating Chinese New Year that Ms. Jin Qiu first presented Dr. Bice a calendar symbolizing auspice and good fortune, as an expression of CIT' s New Year blessing.



Dr. Bice straightforwardly inquired to Dr. Xu about the latest activities of CIT. Dr Xu introduced the close connection and collaboration between fundamental education at different levels and CIT, making a special reference to the Confucius Classroom at LAMP School and stressing the criteria of CIT's establishment of Confucius Classrooms. In her following introduction, Dr. Xu stated the positive impact CIT has made in Alabama for 7 years in its consecutive events and programs such as Startalk Program, China Trip, Scholarship Program, Chinese Bridge Summer Camp and Chinese Language Teacher Training Program. Other beneficial jobs done to help with the local businesses and services offered to Chinese and Korean enterprises in Alabama, like in language-and-culture aid and employee recruitment were mentioned in her further narration.

Furthermore, Dr Xu gave a detailed description of Chinese language training jointly held by Alabama Chinese Language Teachers Association and CIT, which occurred on Jan. 31, and several Chinese New Year celebrations held in Alabama. Dr. Xu referred to CIT's organizing the visits of Alabama Education Administrative Delegation to China.

Dr. Bice asked about the development of curriculum and teaching syllabus of Chinese language to be offered in elementary and middle schools. Dr. Feng introduced the setting of Master Degree of Second Language Acquisition at Troy University, and the significance of curriculum development and qualified teacher training. Meanwhile, Dr. Feng talked about the development of World Languages Institute at the Montgomery Campus

for the purpose of better serving the local community. Dr. Bice showed great interest in World Languages Institute and referred to the growing trend of minority languages like German.

At the end of the visit, Dr. Bice recommended that Dr. Xu and Dr. Feng organize a group learning curriculum for Chinese language in other states prevailing in Chinese language education. He invited Dr. Xu and Dr. Feng in partnership with other experts for the development of Chinese language curriculum of Alabama. *International Curriculum for Chinese Language Education*, which was compiled by Dr. Hong Xu and Dr. Rui Feng, has been translated into 47 languages.