

# **Serving the Local Economy and Society in Alabama Better**

## **---Trips to Golden Dragon Copper by Confucius Institute at Troy University**

On January 6 and 7, 2015, the Confucius Institute at Troy University (CIT) sent Professor Qiu and Professor Wang to visit Golden Dragon Copper and some local schools.

On January 6, they visited Mr. Sheldon Day, Mayor of Thomasville. They also visited Ms. Dawn Gillis, principal of Thomasville Elementary School; Ms. Vickie Morris, principal of Thomasville Middle school and Ms. Donna Calhoun, assistant principal of Thomasville High school.

On January 7, Professor Qiu and Professor Wang visited Mr. George Alford, Director of Wilcox Industrial Development Authority. Then, they visited Mr. Roger Zhang, Chinese General Manager of Golden Dragon Copper USA Inc. Located in Pine Hill which opened in May, 2014 as the world's largest manufacturer of precise copper tubing for the heating and air conditioning industry, Golden Dragon Copper constructed an approximately 500,000 sq. ft. manufacturing facility with an investment of \$100 million. There are 65 Chinese workers and more than 180 American workers in this company. The same day, Professor Qiu and Professor Wang also visited Mr. Shelton Frye, assistant principal of J.E. Hobbs Elementary school; Mr. Andre Davis, principal of Camden school of arts and technology; and Dr. Lenoise Richey, principal of Wilcox Central High School.

In conversation with Mayor Sheldon Day and Mr. George Alford, on behalf of CIT, Professor Qiu and Professor Wang said, CIT would like to offer services like Chinese language instruction and Chinese Culture workshops etc. to build up the bridge between the local community and China. He spoke to Mr. Roger Zhang about the communication barrier between the Chinese and American employees caused by language and cultural differences and he hopes a system could be set up so that Chinese and American employees could communicate with each other smoothly. For that, Professor Qiu and Professor Wang expressed that CIT will offer free second language acquisition instruction and whatever help CIT can offer. The two sides also discussed plans of Celebrating the coming Chinese Spring Festival in the company.

During the visit of six school principals, Professor Qiu and Professor Wang introduced them to the CIT programs of Chinese language and culture instruction in three locations; Startalk and China Trip. They showed such huge interest and passion for these and they said they would cooperate with CIT in some way for the purpose of broadening their students' horizons, increasing the cultural diversity of their schools and laying the foundation for students' future employment. Preliminary communication with the schools on starting Chinese language instruction and Chinese culture experiencing events was under way.

Since its founding in 2007, CIT has been aiming to serve the development of the local community and economy. This trip has strengthened the connection between CIT and different places of Alabama.



