

## CIT Staff Celebrate Mid-Autumn Festival at Confucius Classroom and Sites

On September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015, Confucius Institute at Troy University (CIT) sent some staff to UAB and Hoover to celebrate Mid-Autumn Day with local students, and traditional Chinese culture is also further promoted. CIT launched a variety of activities in accordance with different time and locations to celebrate Mid-Autumn Day this year and received very positive responses from the audience.

At noon, many international students of UAB came to the venue to taste Chinese traditional foods and mooncakes, mid-autumn specialty. CIT staff Tingting Xiong gave a mini-lecture about the origin and local customs of Mid-Autumn Day to the students present. After that, other CIT staff organized workshops of Chinese painting, paper-cutting and Taichi fan dancing in groups. At the end of the event, many students were reluctant to leave and wanted to know about the Chinese customs and art that they were interested in. By uploading photos of their hand-made work to social media such as Facebook or Twitter, they helped further promote this celebration.



At dusk, students and parents of Hoover middle school arrived at Red Pearl Restaurant to taste delicious Chinese foods. CIT staff Yangyang introduced the origin and fairy tales about Mid-Autumn, and Tingting introduced STARTALK program, China Trip for Middle High School Students in 2016 and W.I.L.D. Weekend Immersed in Language Development, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities co-sponsored by the Alabama World Languages Education Foundation (AWLEF) and The Alabama Humanities Foundation. CIT also provided small gifts for students who answered questions during the interactive session. Many students and parents were very interested in the above mentioned programs, and consulted CIT staff in details. When interviewed, they expressed that they have benefited a lot from this Mid-Autumn Day event.

