

Confucius Institute at Troy University Boosts TEFP American Cultural Experiencing Week

TEFP has entered into the fifth academic week since December 11, 2017. TEFP, Teaching Excellence Fellows Program, is a collaborative training project between Chongqing Normal University and Troy University in the United States. In this week, the Confucius Institute at Troy University (CIT) actively encouraged the visiting scholars to participate in various American cultural activities. At noon of December 11, staff from CIT on Troy campus led Chongqing Normal University visiting scholars to Lee's Buffet- a Chinese buffet restaurant to experience Chinese food culture in America. The visiting scholars were full of praise for the food in the Chinese restaurant. Meanwhile, they were also deeply impressed by American people's love for Chinese food. At noon of December 12, the "Foundation of Troy University" held its annual appreciation banquet to give thanks to those individuals and groups who won the 2017 research fund. At the invitation of the Foundation, some teachers from CIT on Troy Campus and all the visiting scholars from Chongqing Normal University attended the banquet. This is a good opportunity to experience the culture of recognition of outstanding teachers in American

universities as well as to learn about the Western table manners. As VIP guests at Troy University, the visiting scholars were warmly welcomed by faculty members of Troy University. In his speech, Chancellor Hawkins made a special mention of the important contribution made by the CIT for International collaboration projects, and also congratulated CIT once again for being awarded the World Excellent Confucius Institute Award this year. In the evening of December 12th, Professor Scott from English Department of Troy University, invited all scholars to attend the traditional American Christmas celebration party at his house. For the first time, these Chinese scholars walked into the American ordinary family to celebrate the upcoming Christmas and New Year. Professor Scott performed a short "Jingle Bells" in Chinese and led everyone to sing Christmas songs together. The Secrete Santa activity pushed the whole party to a climax. In laughter, the scholars came home with various spiritual gifts. In the afternoon of December 13, teachers from CIT on Troy Campus led the scholars to come to Trojan Center at Troy University to attend Christmas Charity Luncheon. Everybody bought and donated toys, and they sincerely hoped that every child could have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. The scholars were delighted to be able to participate

in such a significant event. In the morning of December 15, teachers from the CIT on Troy Campus, accompanied the trainees going to Chancellor's residence to attend the annual Graduates Breakfast. The scholars excitedly took photos with the Chancellor and enjoyed an authentic American breakfast. After breakfast, everyone took the shuttle to Trojan Arena to attend Troy University's commencement ceremony. At first, the students were deeply influenced by the solemn atmosphere, and then everyone could not help participating in the cheers again and again. In the evening of December 15, at the invitation of Dr. Dasinger, Dean of College of Education at Troy University, teachers from CIT accompanied the trainees going to his house for dinner. For the second time, trainees walked into an ordinary American family and learnt about the American interior decoration and traditional Christmas atmosphere of a typical middle-class family. The hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Dasinger left a deep impression to everyone who attended the dinner. All trainees regarded it as a worthwhile trip. A week of American cultural experience has come to an end. The trainees are all enthusiastically looking forward to the new semester.

