

Alabama-Chongqing Education Forum

Elementary and Secondary Schools Class Observation and Discussion

On the morning of January 26, 2018, a delegation of 30 educators from Chongqing Normal University led by Mr. Zhi Zha, deputy director of the Confucius Institute at Troy University, drove from Troy University to the CIT Confucius site – Kelly Springs Elementary School, to carry out the United States elementary and secondary teaching observation and site discussion. The forum is co-hosted by Chongqing Normal University and Troy University. Chinese educators are participating in the TEF program at Troy University. The delegation also visited elementary and secondary schools in Montgomery, Birmingham and Troy.

According to the schedule, the delegation was divided into three groups. Under the guidance of the students, the delegation successively conducted class observation in mathematics, science, reading and arts. All delegates were deeply impressed by the general teaching system of the American elementary schools, the "student-centered" educational philosophy, the diversified classroom management skills and the care and training of children's creativity. After the observation, the Chinese and American educators gathered together and conducted in-depth discussions around the topics of "teacher preparation and student creativity cultivation under the background of globalization", "how to develop educational resources so as to achieve highly-efficient classroom management", "curriculum integration and innovation", "student comprehensive evaluation system and individual development ". The lively atmosphere, the spark of ideas in the discussion set off a brainstorm in education.

Kelly Springs Elementary(KSE) is one of the Confucius sites of CIT. The visit was warmly welcomed by all teachers and students of KSE. A bilingual welcome banner was hung early in the school hall. Ms. Dismukes, the principal, went to the school gate to greet guests from afar and delivered a passionate speech. Ms. Dismukes briefly introduced the history, motto and philosophy of KSE. The principal also made special reference to the history and good interaction between KSE, Troy University and CIT, which made the Chinese educators present feel more cordial.

The local journalists paid close attention to the communication and forum between Chinese and American educators. This field trip and class observation activity attracted many local medias, among which are Dothan Television and Dothan Eagle. Chinese educators were also interviewed in English. A third grader Kobe Reynolds recited the Tang poem "A Tranquil Night" and also

introduced the poet Li Bai and the story behind the words. Kobe said that he loved this poem and a variety of Chinese language and cultural activities provided by CIT.

CIT has always been dedicated to the establishment of a platform for Sino-American cultural and educational communication and the promotion of the better integration and service of Confucius Institutes into the local communities in the United States. This observation and education discussion is another important attempt and exploration by Confucius Institutes to make use of the Confucius Classrooms and teaching resources to innovate and deepen the cultural exchanges between China and the United States.



