

CIT Chinese New Year Celebration Tour—Dothan City

On February 9th, 2018, the Dragon and Lion Dance Team from Confucius Institute at Troy University (CIT) started Chinese New Year Celebration Tour in the State of Alabama. The first stop is Dothan City, AL. The team performed fabulous the dragon and lion dance at Kelly Springs Elementary School, Highlands Elementary School and Troy University on Dothan Campus. All the teachers and students were very curious about this unique Chinese traditional art and they looked forward to the performance.

At about 9:00 am, the strong and impressive drumbeats kicked off the performance. The performers interpreted various temperaments and postures of the dragon and the lions. These legendary animals were sometimes timid, sometimes naughty, sometimes quiet, and sometimes excited. The performance delivered not only the dances inherited from Chinese long history but also Chinese people's warmth and hospitality. A strong Chinese charm surrounded the scenes and the audience were impressed with the authentic Chinese style. Wherever the team reached, the audience applauded, waved and cheered with the tumbling and leaping of the dragon and the lions, and there was a big smile on everyone's face. The students in the elementary schools scrambled to interact with the Dragon and Lion Dance Team. Their teachers took out their mobile phones or pad to shoot pictures and videos. After the end of each performance, the audience saw the team leave with reluctance. The students from CIT Confucius Classrooms said “新年快乐 (xīn nián kuài lè, meaning *Happy New Year*)” or “再见 (zài jiàn, meaning *Goodbye*)” to the performers. The wonderful performances were highly appreciated by both teachers and students.



