

Dragon and Lion Dance Brought the Auspicious Chinese New Year

----CIT Dragon & Lion Dance Team Performed in Montgomery

February 15th, 2018 is the eve of Chinese Lunar New Year. The Dragon and Lion Dance team from Confucius Institute at Troy University (CIT) went to perform in Montgomery, capital city of Alabama. After the first show on Feb. 9th in Dothan, Montgomery is the second stop for the CIT Chinese New Year Celebration Tour.

To better promote Chinese culture, CIT especially wrapped a touring bus with the Confucius Institute logo and the Terracotta Warriors pictures for the Chinese New Year Celebration. Early in the morning, CIT Dragon and Lion Dance team in the wrapping bus set out to various Confucius Classrooms in Montgomery. The specially-designed bus attracted many people along the way to watch and take pictures. In this way, more people learned about CIT and CIT's cultural promotion mission. The team went to Forest Avenue Academic Magnet Elementary School, Baldwin Art and Academics Magnet, Pike Road Elementary School and Loveless Academic Magnet Program High School to present to the teachers and students lively dragon and lion dance performances with traditional Chinese charm. The team relayed Chinese people's best wishes to the people in Alabama! Along with strong and powerful drumbeats, the legendary dragon and lions tumbled and jumped lively. The teachers and students scrambled to interact with the team. They applauded, waved and cheered along with the ups and downs of the show.

Students from various Confucius Classrooms also sent Chinese New Year greetings to the audience in their unique ways. Students from Forest Avenue Academic Magnet Elementary School performed Tai Chi Fan. Students from Pike Road Elementary School sang "Happy New Year". Students from Loveless Academic Magnet Program High School not only sang Chinese songs, but also wrote Chinese characters “大吉大利” (dà jí dà lì, meaning “*Wish you a big fortune in the new year!*”) with Chinese calligraphy brush. Their performances expressed their love of Chinese language and culture, and demonstrated their achievements in Chinese learning as well.

