

2018 CIT Chinese Lantern Festival Celebration on Dothan Campus

On the evening of February 23rd, 2018, the Confucius Institute at Troy University (CIT) held Chinese Lantern Festival Celebration in the Thomas Harrison Room on Dothan Campus. According to Chinese custom, Lantern Festival celebration is the end of the 2-week Chinese New Year Celebration. The venue was filled with dynamic Chinese charms. Guests attending the party included CIT staff on both Troy and Dothan campuses, students from CIT Dothan Adult Mandarin Class, families adopting Chinese children, and the local Chinese community representatives.

The celebration kicked off with the China's traditional lion dance performance. Ms. Li Zhang from CIT acted as the Master of the Ceremony. Mr. Zhi Zha, Deputy Director of CIT, addressed Chinese New Year greetings to all the guests and thanked them for their long-standing support to CIT.

Ms. Jing Yang from CIT, first presented Chinese tea ceremony and introduced such common knowledge as tea set, tea making and tea drinking. Mr. Jim Edington, a student from Adult Mandarin Class, brought with him several Chinese artworks that he carefully collected for many years and introduced the origin and history of the collection. All the guests were interested in these beautiful artworks. The children from adopting families also presented a wonderful Chinese Fashion Show. They were dressed in different national costumes, showing the different styles of Chinese ethnic groups. CIT Dothan staff's children led the children attending the celebration to sing the Chinese song "*Xin Nian Hao*" (meaning *Happy New Year*), which brought the entire celebration to a climax. All the guests sang together spontaneously. Solving riddles and writing couplets are traditional games in the Lantern Festival Celebration in China. The guests enthusiastically solved the riddles and searched for the Chinese characters to finish a couplet. They successfully completed the couplet of “春回大地，福至万家，新年好”(“chūn huí dà dì, fú zhì wàn jiā, xīn nián hǎo”, meaning *Spring Comes Back to Earth, Blessings Arrives at Every Family, Happy New Year.*) Finally, CIT Dothan staff and all the guests celebrated this unforgettable moment by singing "*Memorable Tonight*".

After appreciating the fabulous performances, the guests enjoyed various Chinese and Western dishes prepared by CIT. They especially loved dumplings and

spring rolls, which represent Chinese flavors in Chinese New Year banquet. Over the banquet, CIT staff had a good communication with the families adopting Chinese children and expressed their willingness to offer free Chinese language and culture classes to these families. They received positive responses and unanimous praise from both the parents and the children.



