

CIT Continues to Promote Research Activities in Form of Class Observation and Panel Discussion

On the morning of March 9th, 2018, visiting scholars of the Confucius Institute at Troy University (CIT) came to Providence Christian School in Dothan, Alabama for class observation and panel discussion. CIT visiting scholars received warm welcome from this famous private school.

CIT has a long-standing tradition that visiting scholars should regularly go to do class observation in some American elementary schools and secondary schools. It aims to fully absorb the experience of classroom teaching in American schools and to improve the visiting scholars' scientific research capabilities. According to the schedule on that day, CIT visiting scholars were divided into three groups upon their arrival. They were arranged to attend the classes of literature, math, art, history, etc. under the guide of a senior teacher, Ms. Louise Garrett.

The visiting scholars were deeply impressed with the teaching system of the general school teachers in the United States, the "student-centered" educational philosophy, diverse classroom management skills, and the concern and training on improving children's creativity. After each observation, the visiting scholars and the homeroom teachers communicated with each other. They both mainly focused on "how to cultivate the students' creativity," "how to develop educational resources to achieve effective classroom management", "how to select teaching materials", "how to guide and inspire students' critical thinking", "how to achieve effective classroom interaction", and so on. The visiting scholars actively asked questions and the teachers answered patiently and completely, setting off a brainstorm of exploring the comparison between Chinese and Western educational systems, and of establishing effective teaching modes. Ms. Darlene Jones, the principal of the Providence Christian School briefly introduced its development history, mission and educational philosophy, which enabled visiting scholars to better understand the concept and system of American education.

After the visit, CIT visiting scholars conducted panel discussion. They all felt that they have benefited greatly from this research activity. Not only did they learn advanced language teaching, they also learned about the establishment of teaching systems in different disciplines in the United States. Based on their own research, combined with recent research results and the experience of this visit, they compared and analyzed the differences in teaching modes, teaching methods, and educational concepts between China and the United States and found out the respective advantages. This experience provided rich materials to the visiting scholars' individual research.

CIT has always attached importance to the improvement of the visiting scholars' teaching level and scientific research capabilities. This class observation is CIT's continuous promotion to improve the visiting scholars' proficiency in teaching and research. It is also an important attempt and exploration to innovate and deepen the Sino-American cultural exchanges.

