

The 6th Annual Conference of Southeast Chinese Language Association (SECLA)

October 7th-8th, 2016

SECLA Pre-Conference Workshops
Friday, October 07, 2016

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.



Ms. CHEN Suhan is a Beijing native who serves as the Assistant Director of Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at The University of Montana and the Executive Director of Confucius Institute at The University of Montana. Ms. Chen worked as an editor of international news for China Central Television (CCTV) and a reporter in training for the Science Department of Guangming Daily prior to her education in Japan and the U.S. She is fluent in English, Japanese and Chinese. She has been one of the young leaders of Pacific Forum CSIS (Center for Strategic & International Studies) -Young Leader Program since 2007 and the Assistant Director of Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at the University of Montana, in charge of community outreach and Chinese education for K-12 schools in Montana as well as a series of China related exchange program funded by U.S. Department of State.

MOODLE Online Chinese language programs

The workshop will share the unique experience of CI at The University of Montana on developing and delivering the digital Chinese language and culture instruction to a rural state with a sparsely distributed population---The challenges and the solutions.

Montana is the 4th largest State in the U.S. in terms of geographic size but one of the smallest in terms of population. 680,000 people in Montana (around 68% of the total population) are spread out in towns and rural areas. The challenges for CI at University of Montana is how to promote our Chinese language and culture program in the rural state when not one high school had offered Chinese language classes and how to reach more high school students across the state, especially in smaller towns and rural areas.

Due to the rural nature Montana's population distribution, CIUM has collaborated with the Montana Digital Academy to make both high-school and middle-school level Chinese online instruction available to students in every school district across the Montana, giving students in both larger population centers and rural areas the equal opportunity to access online courses in Chinese. In addition, the traditional face-to-face has been offered to students in Missoula and nearby school districts.

CIUM's online classes are provided via learning management system (Moodle) over the internet. By using an asynchronous delivery, our online program, unlike the traditional classroom or video distance learning, instruction is available to teachers and students 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. So while students still can access their course at a specific time in their school schedule if they prefer, they can also access their course at anytime from anywhere they choose.

CIUM Teachers have used technology tools from a variety of sources to enrich the online classroom instruction, significantly enhancing the learning experience. These resources include simulations, flash animation, multimedia, Internet resources, podcasts and video casts. Specifically, students and teachers also use web conferencing tools that utilize video and audio to help students with Chinese characters, pronunciation and the unique intonation of the Chinese language. In addition, school visits and other activities are also conducted to evaluate the curriculum design, collect the feedback from students, and motivate the learning.