



## ESS 2007 Summer Activities and Site Visits in China

### Professional Training Program for Rural Teachers and Principals

A group of educators volunteered in the 2007 ESS professional training program for teachers and principals in rural China. The training took place from July 20 through July 31, 2007 at three cities: Lanzhou, Gansu Province, Qufu, Shangdong Province and Hefei, Anhui Province in collaboration with the local normal universities. A total of 1,400 teachers and principals from the rural areas participated in the training.

The attendees were greatly touched by the dedication and commitment of the ESS volunteers. They appreciated that ESS volunteers who came from thousands miles away to provide them with professional training and treated them as equal partners in improving the rural education. The positive sentiment interacted with the ESS volunteers and the programs went on exceedingly well.

The various lectures, such as "The Direction of Math Teaching in China and States" by Prof. Hsiang; "How to Serve as a Good Teacher, My personal Experience" by Prof. Yu and "The Effective Teaching Methods." by Prof. Smith were well received. The attendees were also greatly inspired by Prof. Xu 's discussion on "The Relationship of Learning Classical Chinese Culture and the Reading and Writing Abilities of the Students" and Prof. Jin's lectures on "The Principle of Language Teaching" and the "The Application of Theory and Strategy in Teaching". There were also



eleven key-school principals from different cities of China to take part in the "Principals' Forum" covering various topics on leadership. In addition, there were two teachers from the State of Maryland and two teachers from the Jiangsu Province Handsbrain Teacher Training Center who demonstrated the basic concepts of teaching math, English and science. The training programs were very cherished by the attendees, for example, one attendee left his notebook behind took notes on his paper cup, then on his hand and later transferred the notes onto his notebook when he returned to his dorm.

As indicated by the survey submitted by the attendees, they found the experience enlightening and useful. They suggested that the sessions be longer and video recording of the sessions be made and made available to those who were not able to attend.

### Site Visits:

Zuo Yi-xing, a volunteer who is in charge of ESS musical program conducted site visits to one elementary school and one middle school near Chengdu, Sichuan. Her visits yielded valuable insight into the future area of focus for the music program. She also evaluated the rate of use of

the library books donated by ESS. She found the library collection was not fully utilized because the intensive homework leave students limited time to read beyond their textbooks.

A team led by Ms. Peizhen Shao of the Raybin Wong Foundation conducted unannounced site visits to two schools in Inner Mongolia. They were very impressed by the students' reading level. Ms Shao told ESS volunteers that "ESS should know the change you have brought about (in Inner Mongolia) since 1995." In the first school, Lin Xi Xian, Shi- Er-Tu Center Elementary School, she visited a class where any student could recite any section of the Confucius Dialect when called upon. In another class, the teacher was discussing "The Three Kingdoms" and "The Monkey King" with students. Ms. Shao has realized that the library books and financial assistance provided by ESS have greatly enhanced students' self esteem. The team was also very impressed by the self-reliant spirit of the teachers and students, for examples, they paved the school walkways with the surplus gravel collected from construction sites; they grew vegetables to store in the cellar for wintertime and raised pigs for year round supply of meat. Ms. Shao congratulated the principal for his leadership. He responded, "I am here to teach MY CHILDREN to become the best.