

Teachers of Critical Languages Program

关键语言教师项目

برنامج معلمي اللغات الحرجة



Enriching Foreign Language Abilities
Exchanging Professional Talents
Enjoying Cultural Differences
Expanding Students' Horizons

www.tclprogram.org

2008 TCLP Fall Workshop

Each November, after exchange teachers have transitioned into their school communities and begun to understand how to approach the needs of their schools and students, American Councils organizes a Fall Workshop to provide them supplemental professional development before their first semester closes. These Fall Workshops provide exchange teachers with the opportunity to share best practices, choose from methodological seminars that address their own classroom needs, and deepen their understanding of America by exploring regional cultural opportunities. This year's Fall Workshop was held in Orlando, Florida, from November 20-23, 2008.

Fall Workshop Opening Session



As the Fall Workshop began, American Councils shared exchange teachers' accomplishments with their TCLP peers to facilitate a dynamic and rich exchange of their classroom and community successes and experiences since August in subsequent breakout sessions (left) and group round-table discussions.

Additionally, American Councils invited Dora Johnson (top right), from the Center for Applied Linguistics and CLASS Board Member Dali Tan (bottom right) to discuss with exchange teachers professional conference approaches, best networking practices to facilitate outreach at conferences and in school districts, and the classroom benefits of joining teaching organizations such as the Chinese Language Association of Secondary and Elementary Schools and the Arabic K-12 Teachers Network.



Thursday Evening Reunion and Cultural Experiences in Orlando



American Councils organized a group dinner on the night of exchange teachers' arrival so experiences and successes could be shared informally during the first collective reunion since Orientation's conclusion in August. (above left). Exchange teachers were thrilled by the surprise appearance of Disney characters at the dinner which allowed them to have the full Orlando experience (above center). Later in the Fall Workshop, the group visited Disney's Epcot Center, where they enjoyed the World Showcase Fireworks Display (above right).

Professional Development Sessions



TCLP teachers chose professional development sessions which they determined were most applicable to their US classroom teaching of Mandarin or Arabic. Post-workshop feedback indicated that Chinese teachers found the

CLASS-sponsored session *Engaging Activities for Chinese Teachers' 'Bag of Tricks'* to be most beneficial, while most Arabic teachers found *Beyond the Arabic Language Textbook* session, with presenters from the National Capital Language Resource Center, to be rich with useful information.



Networking Dinner



To promote professional networking and the sharing of lessons, insights, and experiences, American Councils and the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs hosted a dinner at Todd English's Bluezoo Restaurant in the Swan and Dolphin Hotel for exchange teachers, school representatives, educational specialists, and foreign language association representatives.

