

Confucius Institute at Alfred University hosts National Conference on Chinese Immersion Programs
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The National Conference on Chinese Immersion Programs concert opened with a tai chi fan performance.

ALFRED, NY – On September 28, the Confucius Institute at Alfred University (CIAU) hosted the Third National Conference on Chinese Immersion Programs. Nearly 50 experts, scholars and Chinese teachers from China, Canada and the United States attended the conference, which was themed “Qualification, Cooperation and Innovation in Chinese Immersion Instruction.”

Guests attending the opening and closing ceremonies of the conference in Nevins Theater, Powell Campus Center, included Beth Ann Dobie, provost of Alfred University; Xulong Lai, vice president of China University of Geosciences (Wuhan); Nancy Furlong, director of Alfred University’s Division of Modern Languages; Daisy Wu, director of the Confucius Institute at Alfred University; and Wilfred Huang, CIAU former director.

Dobie reviewed the achievements of the Confucius Institute in recent years, referring to the tai chi classes, the guzheng ensemble, and Chinese classes for their roles in promoting mutual cultural understanding. The Confucius Institute provides Alfred University students and the local community with many opportunities to learn about Chinese culture and language.

Xulong Lai extended his congratulations to the conference participants and his gratitude for the efforts of CIAU, and said that China University of Geosciences (Wuhan) will continue to support the development of the Confucius Institute.

Keynote addresses were given by Dr. Guofang Li from the University of British Columbia; Dr. Juefei Wang, professor emeritus, University of Vermont, and program director of the Freeman Foundation; Dr. Wenying Zhou from Michigan State University; and Dr. Chan Lü from the University of Washington.

The conference provided a platform for researchers, teachers and administrators of Chinese immersion programs to promote the sustainable development of Chinese teaching in the United States.

In the evening, a concert, “East Meets West,” was held in Miller Theater. A Tai Chi fan performance kicked off the show. Teachers and students from Geneva City School District performed the Chinese children's songs, *Looking for a Friend* and *Counting Ducks*. David Fuller from the Alfred University guzheng ensemble played a solo, *Evening Songs on the Fishing Boat*; the Guzheng Ensemble performed *Swordsman*.

Alfred University Chinese students read a traditional Chinese poem, *Drinking Wine*. Jialin Fang, a volunteer with CIAU, served as accompanist for him and for a violin duet arranged by Daisy Wu played by two Alfred-Almond Central School students, Candy Zhou and Isabel Metz. The Alfred University Chorus performed their renditions of *Scarborough Fair*, *Usuli Boat Song* and *The Youth Dance*.