

Promoting K-16 Chinese Language Education in Texas
2008 CLTA-Texas Annual Conference
Dallas 8/30/2008

The CLTA-Texas 2008 Annual Conference was successfully held in Dallas on August 30th, 2008, with more than 130 teachers attending from Houston, San Antonio, College Station, Dallas, and even El Paso. Conference participants commented that it was a special occasion in that they were able to meet so many teachers from various levels and cities. Many of them enjoyed this unique opportunity to exchange ideas and discuss issues related to Chinese language teaching.

The Conference started with two keynote speakers: Shannon Baker, Managing Director of Curriculum Division, and Lucy Lee, founder and former President of the Chinese Language Association of Secondary-Elementary Schools (CLASS). Ms. Baker's speech, "West Meets East—Growth of Chinese Programs in Texas," focused on the development and expansion of Chinese programs in Texas. Her talk confirmed TEA's commitment to foreign language education in the Lone Star State. Ms. Lee presented the current status of Chinese language education in the U.S. She also gave an informative presentation on "Professional Visions of K-12 Chinese Teachers." Her presence and speech were inspiring and encouraging to our attendees.

The Annual Conference included five panels that centered on issues related to all levels of Chinese language instruction:

- Four foreign language coordinators from school districts participated on the panel "Chinese Language Program in Dallas/Fort Worth." They reported on the existing Chinese programs and their future plans.
- Four teachers from Chinese heritage schools presented "Communication-Interactive Classroom Activities."
- A panel of university instructors spoke on "Bringing Sight, Sound, and Sense of Chinese Language into the Classroom."
- Three energetic high school teachers presented innovative teaching approaches in the panel, "Motivating Our Students!"
- The Conference also included a panel on Texas Startalk student and teacher programs which were implemented by CLTA-Texas during the summer 2008.

Five publishers, including one computer company, supported the CLTA-Texas Conference by participating in the Book Exhibit or donating books/computer tools for door prizes. The Conference was generously sponsored by Chao Center of Asian Studies at Rice University, Confucius Institute of Texas A&M University, and Education Division of China Consulate in Houston. To view the Conference details and photos, visit the website www.clta-texas.org.