2017–2018 ANNUAL REPORT
Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota
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Dear Friends,

It’s hard to believe a decade has passed, and we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota (CIUMN). It seems like just yesterday we were cutting the ribbon on our new space to the tune of the Minnesota Rouser on *pipa*, *erhu*, *hulusi*, and *guzheng*.

When the CIUMN opened in 2008, there were approximately 5,500 students studying Chinese at the K-12 level in Minnesota. Today, there are more than 11,000! I’m proud of the role the Confucius Institute and our partners have had in advancing Chinese language and culture in the greater Minnesota community. I’d like to share a few highlights.

Over the last decade, CIUMN has:

- Provided, in partnership with the Hanban, more than $3 million to K-12 schools statewide
- Proctored more than 7,000 HSK and YCT proficiency tests
- Worked closely with the Minnesota Department of Education to bring more than 70 visiting teachers to local classrooms
- Supported educational travel to China for hundreds of students
- Hosted free or reduced-cost Chinese cultural performances and artistic demonstrations that have reached thousands of students and community members
- Offered valuable professional development opportunities to more than 250 Chinese language teachers annually

This impact and success could not have been possible without our valued partners, including the Hanban, Capital Normal University, the Consulate General in Chicago, and all those involved in Minnesota’s outstanding Chinese language-learning community. We are indebted to our collaborations with the Minnesota Department of Education, University of Minnesota expert faculty, and our strong partnerships with Minnesota’s exceptional public and private schools. We should all take pride in what we have accomplished together.

I offer my sincere thanks and wish you a joyous Happy Anniversary!

Sincerely,

Joan Brzezinski
Executive Director
10 Years of Impact
Highlights from CIUMN’s First Decade

2008: Grand opening ribbon-cutting

2008-2018: China Day

2015: Jewish Refugees in Shanghai

2013-2018: Proficiency award ceremonies

2014-2018: Confucius Institute Day

2009-2018: STARTALK trainings

2016-2018: Speech contests
2009-2018: Confucius Classroom trips to China

2011, 2014: Institute of the Year

2009-2018: Cultural performances

2009-2018: Summer camps for kids

2015-2017: NSLI-Y summer programs in China
Confucius Classrooms Bring Chinese Culture to Schools and Communities

The Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota’s affiliated network of 13 Confucius Classrooms served more than 5,000 students and reached more than 9,000 people through community events during the 2017-2018 school year.

These affiliated districts and organizations continue to make the most of their Confucius Classroom designation by coordinating student travel groups to China and enhancing opportunities for cultural learning. Several Confucius Classrooms invited expert Chinese painters and martial arts practitioners to provide instruction to their students. A Minneapolis teacher explained that these artists “helped students to understand the elements of Chinese painting, and to feel confident in their efforts to paint important cultural symbols including bamboo, fish, and pandas.”

As a result of this learning in the classroom, students are better prepared to share Chinese language and culture in their wider communities. Many of these cultural skills are on display at district-wide community events that recognize Chinese New Year or celebrate cultural diversity. Community members in Battle Lake even learned a Chinese song from preschool students who sang it at their graduation ceremony.

Impact of CIUMN-Affiliated Confucius Classrooms

| 5,136 students studying Chinese in schools | 544 students studied Chinese through extra-curricular* opportunities | 9,073 community members participated in Chinese cultural activities |

* camps, non-credit courses, after-school classes, etc.

Key
- Confucius Classrooms
- Satellite Offices
- Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota–Twin Cities
Artists Visit Confucius Classroom at St. Paul Public Schools

CIUMN took its annual Confucius Institute Day celebration on the road to the Confucius Classroom at St. Paul Public Schools (SPPS). The event gave students the experience of learning from Beijing artists Jin Wei and Daiping Xiong and viewing their exhibit, “A Window on China.”

The artists exhibited original works of Chinese painting and calligraphy at Highland Park High School, which was toured by more than 360 students from four SPPS schools. Students also learned about Mr. Wei and Mr. Xiong’s lives as artists in China while watching live demonstrations.

Dual Language Program Manager Liz Hathaway-Castelan, who helped bring this opportunity to SPPS, shared: “The artists kept the students in awe with their amazing talent creating beautiful Chinese scenes before their eyes…. Thank you for this unique and inspiring experience for our Chinese language students.”
2018 China Day Features Chinese Social Media Sensation Jessica Beinecke

On Feb. 8, 2018, more than 500 high school students from twelve schools in Minnesota and Wisconsin gathered to hear Jessica Beinecke recount her journey from growing up in a small town in Ohio to becoming fluent in Mandarin. She began creating short videos to introduce social media followers to Chinese and American slang and culture through her channels, “OMG! Meiyu” and “Crazy Fresh Chinese.”

In preparation for China Day 2018, students created their own videos with the theme, “I know Minnesota” or “我知道明尼苏达.” The student videos were played at China Day and featured places like the Minnesota State Fair and Lake Superior, activities like ice fishing and football, and of course, winter weather words like “cold,” “snow,” and “slippery.” Ms. Beinecke’s fun and interactive presentation left students even more motivated to pursue their study of the Chinese language.

After a warm welcome from the Confucius Institute’s Executive Director Joan Brzezinski, students learned about opportunities to pursue Chinese language study at the University of Minnesota through remarks from Professor Christine Marran, chair of the Department of Asian Languages and Literatures, and Dr. Ning Ma, director of the Chinese Flagship Program. Students learned about opportunities to study abroad through CET from Ayan Hassan, a current student at the University and a CET alumnus.

China Day is an annual event for high school students studying Chinese. The goal of China Day is to encourage Chinese language learning and promote interest in Chinese culture among high school students in Minnesota. This is accomplished by selecting a Chinese-related theme and producing a program that includes a themed presentation by a speaker and a student participation component.
Students “Travel” to China at Summer Camp

For the tenth year, CIUMN partnered with University Youth Programs to offer Chinese language and culture summer camps through Kids’ University.

Over the course of two weeks, CIUMN offered one “Explore Chinese Language and Culture” camp and three “Passport to China” camps, including one for immersion students. A total of 45 students, ages six to eleven, attended the camps. An additional 56 campers participated in one-hour sessions, which introduced young learners to the Chinese language in a relaxed, playful environment.

The most popular camp, “Passport to China,” took campers on a tour of four Chinese cities, introducing students to the local culture, history, and cuisine. This year, our campers “traveled” to the Great Wall in Beijing, the Terracotta Warriors in Xi’an, the Harbin Ice and Snow Festival, and to Dali, an important stop on the ancient Tea Horse Road. Along the way, students sang songs in Chinese, rolled dough for jiaozi (dumplings), made tie-dye crafts, and practiced writing Chinese characters.

At “Explore Chinese Language and Culture,” students learned numbers and colors in Chinese, and created dragon puppets, Chinese Zodiac calendars, and lanterns for Chinese New Year.
CIUMN hosts 2018 Minnesota Chinese Speech Contest

On Apr. 21, 2018, CIUMN hosted the 2nd annual Minnesota Chinese Speech Contest for High School Students at Eisenhower Community Center. Fourteen students from across the state competed in the competition, which consisted of three rounds: two-minute speeches in Mandarin, a written test of their Chinese language ability, and a talent competition. The exciting talent show included traditional Hmong dance, Chinese painting and calligraphy, musical performances, and poetry recitations.

Students were inspired to continue studying and enhancing their Mandarin language skills. Joan Brzezinski, executive director of CIUMN, spoke of the future opportunities that Chinese language will open to students. Yao Tu and Cholan Zheng of the UMN Chinese Flagship Program introduced opportunities for students to continue Chinese studies at the University. The Blake School student Alexandra Koullick described her experience traveling to China for the global speech competition (see feature below).

Thank you to our panel of judges: Hui Bi, Zhining Chin, Rong Cui, Kaishan Kong, Hai Liu, Yao Tu, Margaret Wong, and Zou Zhen.

Life-Long Friendships Made in China

After taking first place in the 2017 Minnesota Chinese Speech Contest, The Blake School student Alexandra Koullick went on to earn a spot representing the central United States at the Chinese Bridge Speech Contest in Kunming, China. Here are some of her memories from this experience.

When I arrived at the international competition in China, I was astounded that I could freely communicate with over 200 participants from 96 countries from all five continents, due to our shared love for Mandarin. I formed life-long friendships with these international friends. Today, I still have nostalgia for my trip to Kunming and look forward to studying in China during a gap year after graduating from high school, thanks to the generous scholarship granted by Confucius Institute Headquarters/Hanban.

I am very grateful to the Confucius Institute for the cross-cultural interactions that have helped me realize how expansive the world really is. I now have a personal experience of the famous Chinese idiom: ‘海内存知己,天涯若比邻!’ or ‘A long distance cannot separate close friends.’
Sixth Annual Chinese Proficiency Award Ceremony Honors Student Achievement

More than 600 students, teachers, and parents gathered at Ted Mann Concert Hall on Oct. 7, 2017, to recognize student achievements in Mandarin Chinese at the Chinese Proficiency Award Ceremony and Reception.

The event, co-hosted by CIUMN and the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), celebrated successful performances by more than 150 students on the 2017 YCT and HSK Chinese proficiency tests, Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL), and/or the STAMP Assessment.

The ceremony opened with remarks from Education Counselor Chen Yinghui, visiting from the Consulate of the People’s Republic of China in Chicago; Assistant Commissioner Daron Korte from the Minnesota Department of Education; and CIUMN Executive Director Joan Brzezinski. Alexandra Koullick, a student at The Blake School and winner of the 2017 Midwest Chinese Bridge Speech Contest for High School Students, also gave a speech about her Chinese language journey.

During the ceremony, students were given certificates or medals, and received high-fives from Executive Director Brzezinski, Assistant Commissioner Korte, and Education Counselor Chen.

Nine students participated in a panel discussion about their experience learning Chinese and their future goals, moderated by Dr. Tiangang Hui, CIUMN Chinese-side director.
Bringing Chinese Language Classes to the Community

CIUMN offered community Chinese language classes for the 10th year in a row. CIUMN had 111 registrations over the fall, spring, and summer terms in 2017-2018. Courses ranged from beginning to intermediate levels, plus a conversation-based class for intermediate to advanced students looking to bring their language skills back to life.

“Thanks for offering affordable community classes in Chinese that are accommodating to those of us who have busy schedules. I make progress with my pronunciation and understanding each week.”
— Student in Beginning I class

“Our teacher plans games and activities for us in class, which make the sessions more lively. I also appreciate that she has worked in small explanations of culture and history alongside the language instruction. It has been very enlightening.”
— Student in Beginning II class

Egg Tarts, Tea, and Friendship at the Chinese Language Café

Local Chinese speakers and language learners had the chance to gather together and enjoy Chinese-style treats, thanks to the CIUMN’s three Chinese Language Café events in 2017-18. Over bubble tea, egg tarts, and red bean sesame balls, attendees formed new friendships, practiced speaking Chinese, and networked with other Chinese language and culture enthusiasts.

The meet-ups were also an opportunity for potential students to learn more about the Confucius Institute’s Community Chinese Language Classes, and meet with instructors to discuss what level might fit them best. Attendees could enter a drawing to win free or discounted Community Chinese Classes, as well as other materials such as books on Chinese culture.

Participants could also browse through the Resource Center to check out materials on Chinese language and culture.
CIUMN Administers Record Number of Proficiency Tests

The numbers of Chinese language proficiency tests administered by the Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota continues to grow. With a 4 percent increase in 2017-2018, CIUMN offered the highest number of tests in its history.

CIUMN continues to serve as a test center for the Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (HSK), Hanyu Shuiping Kouyu Kaoshi (HSKK) and Youth Chinese Test (YCT) for Minnesota’s K-12 schools as well as members of the community. These exams are used to measure progress in language learning and serve as an important benchmark in demonstrating Chinese language proficiency.

Minnesota students continue to demonstrate high pass rates on these exams, with an overall pass rate of 90 percent on all levels of the YCT. This is even more impressive given the increasing number of students taking the exam.

In addition to the 1,160 school-based tests, CIUMN administered 44 HSK and HSKK tests to Chinese language learners in the community.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>YCT-1 Passed</th>
<th>YCT-1 Tested</th>
<th>YCT-2 Passed</th>
<th>YCT-2 Tested</th>
<th>YCT-3 Passed</th>
<th>YCT-3 Tested</th>
<th>YCT-4 Passed</th>
<th>YCT-4 Tested</th>
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<td>106</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>102</td>
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<tr>
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<td>109</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>333</td>
<td>90%</td>
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CIUMN Hosts 10th Annual Minnesota Chinese Language Teachers Conference

CIUMN welcomed 60 attendees to its 10th annual Minnesota Chinese Language Teachers Conference on Oct. 27, 2017. Participants heard from keynote speaker Dr. Dali Tan, associate professor of Chinese at Northern Virginia Community College, on the topic, “Takeoff in Learning: Practical Differentiation Strategies for All Learners in the Chinese Classroom.”

Dr. Tan has extensive experience teaching Chinese from elementary to college. She is a former president of CLASS and has served in many leadership positions, including director of a STARTALK infrastructure grant, co-director of a U.S. Department of Education project, and a committee member with The College Board for the AP and SAT II Chinese committees.

Dr. Tan’s lecture was preceded by presentations from the University of Minnesota’s Dr. Zhen Zou from College in the Schools, Dr. Ling Wang of Asian Languages and Literatures, and Dr. Tu Yao of the Chinese Flagship program.

The Confucius Institute thanks Ponddy Education for providing sponsorship for the conference.
Calligraphy Workshop with Zhang Yansheng

On Mar. 3, 2018, Beijing calligraphy expert Zhang Yansheng provided a professional development workshop for more than 20 Chinese language teachers at CIUMN. Through Mr. Zhang’s teachings, the participants deepened their appreciation for the art form and learned how they can teach their students to appreciate Chinese calligraphy.

Mr. Zhang is a veteran calligrapher who has studied the styles of famous artists of various dynasties. His deep foundation in Chinese art lies in his practice of calligraphy, poetry, seal carving, and painting. He is a student of the famous modern Chinese calligrapher Ouyang Zhongshi, and has developed a distinctive style and demonstrated his proficiency and extraordinary accomplishments, especially in the running script. Son of the famous Chinese composer Tang He, Mr. Zhang is currently on the board of directors of the Beijing Yan Yu Qing Feng Culture Media Co. Ltd., and is a senior film director.

The Confucius Institute thanks the Chinese Heritage Foundation for inviting Mr. Zhang to visit Minnesota and for providing CIUMN the opportunity to host this workshop for Chinese language teachers.

CIUMN Helps Schools Connect with Visiting Teachers

The Confucius Institute assisted five Minnesota school districts to host teachers from China through the Hanban’s teacher programs. These teachers take leave from the schools where they teach in China and are placed in Minnesota schools for one to three years. Two additional sponsored teachers from Capital Normal University served as instructors at the Crookston and Morris satellite offices.

Sponsored Teachers
Zheng Liang, Minnetonka Public Schools
Fanhua Meng, Yinghua Academy
Hui Wang, Minnetonka Public Schools
Yehua Wei, Yinghua Academy
Jing Zhang, Yinghua Academy
Xifeng Zhang, Yinghua Academy

Visiting Teachers
Ying He, St. Paul Public Schools
Junyan Hu, Hopkins Public Schools
Jing Li, St. Paul Public Schools
Ting Li, St. John’s Preparatory School
Xuting Liu, Hopkins Public Schools
Hong Shu, Hopkins Public Schools

University-based Sponsored Teachers
Qingjie Fan, Morris Satellite Office
Xiaojun Wang, Crookston Satellite Office
Mini Grants Support Culture Learning

The Confucius Institute awarded Cultural Access Mini Grants to Minnesota schools for the fifth year. These one-time grants award teachers up to $1,000 to support Chinese language and culture-learning activities, such as guest artist programs, cultural performances, and cultural supplies.

With support from the grant, teachers in Duluth organized a popular Chinese calligraphy contest. A total of 64 participants entered the contest, including interested community members and students from Duluth East High School, Denfeld High School, and the University of Minnesota-Duluth. The four winners of the contest visited local elementary schools to share their knowledge with young learners.

A grant to Jieming Academy allowed the school to hire a professional dance instructor to teach Chinese dance to students for their Chinese New Year celebration. More than 500 students and family members attended the performance, which began with a dragon dance through the auditorium that was a memorable highlight for attendees.

2017-2018 Mini Grants

Academy of Holy Angels: Chinese New Year Celebration
Chaska High School: Chinese Arts, Crafts, and Traditional Culture Performance
Duluth Public Schools: Chinese Calligraphy Contest
Eastview High School: Lion Dance
Moorhead High School: Chinese Cooking Lesson, New Year Celebration, and Ink Painting Lessons
St. Paul Public Schools: Chinese New Year Performance
Teachers Celebrate Chinese New Year

On Mar. 2, 2018, more than 40 Chinese language teachers from across Minnesota gathered at the University of Minnesota for a Chinese New Year celebration, hosted by CIUMN. This was a special opportunity for Chinese teachers to meet in-person and exchange stories from the classroom.

Three teachers presented about projects in their own schools. Pearl Cheng, a teacher at Rosemount High School, shared Chinese compositions from her students. Changying Lawton, a teacher at South Saint Paul Secondary, shared the experience of Chinese students from Shaanxi studying at the school. Jingbo Wang, a teacher at the Minnetonka middle schools, shared his Chinese immersion students’ videos for social studies classes, including videos about ancient Egypt.

Following the presentations, teachers participated in several rounds of games, including charades, guessing the names of songs, and guessing Chinese sayings. Teachers also enjoyed a tasty dinner and entered a raffle to win prizes. Many went home with gifts and cultural items to use in their classrooms.

Everyone enjoyed this fun and lively evening ringing in the Year of the Dog!
Celebrating the 10th Year of STARTALK at UMN

For the 10th consecutive year, CIUMN and its partner, the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD), hosted the STARTALK program on “Teaching and Assisting Chinese Culture and Language Authentically” at the University of Minnesota.

The 2018 STARTALK program was held from June 20 to July 3, 2018, through a combination of online and in-person instruction. The popular program was attended by 18 Chinese language teachers from 10 states.

The program was taught by Martha Bigelow, professor in curriculum and instruction, and Alice Yang and Ping Peng, Ph.D. students in second language education.

STARTALK is a U.S. government program to train language teachers, funded by the National Security Agency and implemented by the National Foreign Language Center at the University of Maryland.

Since 2009, CIUMN and CEHD have partnered to offer STARTALK teacher trainings on several topics, including Mandarin Elementary Immersion Summer Teacher’s Education Program (MEISTEP), Cultural Integration for Proficiency-Oriented Mandarin Instruction (CIPOMI), and Teaching and Assessing Chinese Culture and Language Authentically (TACCLA), among others.
Students Experience a Variety of Chinese Arts

CIUMN welcomed the performance troupe from our partner, Capital Normal University, for a beautiful exhibition of traditional Chinese arts. More than 700 K-12 students from Twin Cities schools attended the performance at Ted Mann Concert Hall on Nov. 8, 2017.

The 22 performers entertained the crowd with twelve different acts, such as traditional Chinese folk dances including a sword dance, Peking Opera, traditional Chinese instruments, and Chinese yo-yo (kongzhu).
Confucius Institute Day Brings Art to Life

Guests at the 2017 Confucius Institute Day not only experienced an exhibit of beautiful paintings and Chinese calligraphy, they saw a new artwork come to life before their eyes.

As part of the lecture and demonstration, painter Daiping Xiong created a new Chinese-style painting of Minnesota’s natural landmarks that included a loon and the iconic Spoonbridge and Cherry sculpture. Calligrapher Jin Wei then added calligraphy with a poem written specifically to mark the occasion and reflect Minnesota’s landscape.

More than 30 members of the campus and local community attended the event on Sep. 21, 2017, which also included an exhibit of more than two dozen of the pair’s artworks. The artists also attended a special Confucius Institute Day event that brought their artwork to students in the St. Paul Public Schools (see more in the Language Programs section on p. 5).
Bringing Chinese Culture to the Community

The Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota shared Chinese culture with the community at a variety of public events throughout 2017-2018.

The Confucius Institute hosted a paper-cutting activity at the Mall of America’s Chinese New Year celebration. In July, young visitors colored dragon masks at the Dragon Festival at Lake Phalen. In the University of Minnesota building at the Minnesota State Fair, the Confucius Institute introduced attendees to a traditional Chinese tea ceremony and varieties of Chinese tea.

Community Sponsorships

CIUMN sponsored a variety of community activities to promote Chinese language and culture, providing more than $2,500 to local organizations in 2017-18 including:

- Chinese American Association of Minnesota (CAAM): Mid Autumn Festival 10/7/17
- Minhua Chorus: Annual Production 11/11/17
- Minnesota International Chinese School: Chinese New Year Celebration 2/11/18
- US-China Peoples Friendship Association – Minnesota Chapter (USCPFA): Annual Banquet 2/25/18
- Chinese American Association of Minnesota (CAAM): Guangdong Charm Chinese New Year Event 3/4/18
- Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival: Showings of “The Ballad from Tibet” 4/15/18 and 4/22/18
- Minnesota Chinese Opera: 10th Anniversary Production 5/13/18
- Chinese American Association of Minnesota (CAAM): Dance Summer Camp June 2018
Promoting Chinese Language and Culture on Campus

The Confucius Institute is proud to be a part of the University of Minnesota and provide support to various efforts to promote Chinese language and culture on campus.

CIUMN hosted a table at the University’s Learning Abroad Center Fall Fair, where staff promoted opportunities to study abroad in China.

CIUMN also sponsored the Weisman Art Museum exhibit, “Jizi: Journey of the Spirit.” In addition to this sponsorship, CIUMN helped host two schools whose Chinese language students took field trips to see the exhibit.

Students from Jieming Academy in Saint Paul and Minneapolis South High School toured a selection of the artist Jizi’s large-scale ink paintings and attended a lecture by the son of Jizi and a colleague of the artist.

Students also had the opportunity to try sidewalk calligraphy outside the Weisman’s iconic building.
In 2017-2018, the Crookston Satellite Office brought a vibrant array of Chinese cultural activities to the UMC campus and to the Crookston community.

One of the most exciting events of the year was the Chinese New Year party on Feb. 24, 2018. More than 60 people from various departments at the University and local primary and secondary school students and their parents came to experience Chinese cultural activities and watch cultural performances featuring Chinese music and dance.

On Mar. 21, 2018, around 30 students and faculty experienced Chinese tea culture at an event where they sampled green tea, black tea, Tieguanyin tea, white tea, and Pu’er tea.

In honor of the Qingming Festival, around 20 people attended a viewing on Apr. 6, 2018, of a documentary on the renowned masterpiece of Chinese painting, “Along the River During the Qingming Festival.”

The UMC Satellite Office hosted other activities to introduce students and the community to Chinese language and culture, including teaching the Chinese game of Go, making dumplings for Chinese New Year, hosting a tai chi workshop, and arranging visits to elementary schools to teach about Chinese culture.
Crookston Welcomes Xiaojun Wang

In fall 2017, a new visiting Chinese professor arrived on the University of Minnesota-Crookston (UMC) campus. Xiaojun Wang, Ph.D., an associate professor at Capital Normal University in Beijing, has been teaching Chinese as a second language in China for ten years. While the small town of Crookston could not be farther from the metropolis of Beijing, Dr. Wang has found a home in this small community, eagerly participating in community activities such as the Pi Run 5k Race (where he won fourth place!).

Morris Welcomes Qingjie Fan

The Morris Satellite Office welcomed Visiting Chinese Professor Qingjie Fan in fall 2017. Dr. Fan earned his Ph.D. in Second Language Acquisition from Beijing Language and Culture University and has taught Chinese as a Second Language at Capital Normal University for ten years. Previously, Dr. Fan worked as a Chinese language teacher through the Confucius Institute at the University of Buffalo in New York for three years. In addition to continuing to offer Chinese language and culture classes at the Morris campus, Dr. Fan also initiated a community *tai chi* class to introduce community members to the movements and benefits of this Chinese martial art.
Our Team

2017–2018 Staff

Joan Brzezinski  
Executive Director

Yongling Zhang-Gorke, Ph.D.  
Assistant Director

Emily Hanson  
Program Director

Pashoua Vang  
Program and Project Specialist

Madeline Christensen  
Program and Project Specialist

Rachel Baumhover  
Executive Office and Administrative Specialist

Dr. Tiangang Hui  
China-Side Director

Dr. Qijie Li  
China-Side Director

Graduate Fellow

Weijian Wang

Resource Center Assistants

Lizzie Yizhen Cai  
Yunhan Ding  
Claire Shuyan Liu  
Lingtong Yu  
Xiaojing Zhou

Dr. Tiangang Hui, who served as the Chinese-side director at the Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota, returned to his position as faculty at Capital Normal University in Beijing in May 2018. Over his two-year tenure, he contributed significantly to the support and establishment of CIUMN’s Confucius Classrooms, celebrations of Confucius Institute Day, Chinese speech contests, and Chinese language classes. We thank Dr. Hui for his contributions to the Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota!

Dr. Qijie Li returned to CIUMN as the Chinese-side director in May 2018 after working four years as an associate professor at the College of International Education at Capital Normal University in Beijing. During her previous tenure at CIUMN from 2011 to 2014, she facilitated the establishment of Confucius Institute satellite offices at the Crookston and Morris campuses. She was also instrumental in the transition to internet-based HSK and YCT tests, which helped CIUMN become the second-largest test center in North America. Welcome back, Dr. Li!

Thank You!

Volunteers

Ziwen Ding  
Yiyao He  
Steven Rotchadl  
Lushan Wang  
Xuebing Xian  
Jieying Zhang

Donors

Jennifer Stoddard  
Mrs. Ming Li Tchou
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Associate Vice President and Dean of International Programs
University of Minnesota

Professor Gong Huili, Vice Chair
President
Capital Normal University

Professor Kenneth Bartlett
Associate Dean, College of Education and Human Development
University of Minnesota

Professor Martha Bigelow
Professor, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, College of Education and Human Development
University of Minnesota

Ms. Han Mei
Associate Dean, College of International Programs and Director, Division of Confucius Institute Affairs
Capital Normal University

Ms. Ursula Lentz
World Language and English Learner Education Specialist
Minnesota Department of Education

Mr. Li Youzeng
Executive Director, Beijing Teachers Training Center for Higher Education
Capital Normal University

Professor Liu Xiaotian
Dean, College of International Programs
Capital Normal University

Dr. Kate Paesani
Director, Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition
University of Minnesota

Ms. Margaret Wong
Retired Chinese Language Teacher
Breck School

About the Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota

The Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota promotes the study of Chinese language and culture throughout Minnesota. It is a collaborative initiative between the University of Minnesota, the Hanban/Confucius Institute Headquarters, and Capital Normal University in Beijing. CIUMN is a unit of the University’s Global Programs and Strategy Alliance.

Office Hours
Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Closed on University holidays

The CIUMN Resource Center is open extended hours most evenings. Schedule at: confucius.umn.edu/resourcecenter/

Contact
Phone: 612-625-5080
Fax: 612-625-5185
Email: confucius@umn.edu
Web: confucius.umn.edu
Facebook: CIUMN

Location
The Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota is located on the East Bank of the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities:

University International Center, Room 160
331-17th Avenue SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414
The Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota promotes the study of Chinese language and culture throughout Minnesota. It utilizes the extensive resources at the University and in the state to deliver educational programs that connect schools and communities to Chinese language and culture in meaningful ways.