Confucius Institute of the State of Washington

The Confucius Institute of the State of Washington is the first statewide Confucius Institute. It is a joint effort of the Office of the Chinese Language Council International (Hanban) in Beijing and the University of Washington, Seattle Public Schools, and the Alliance for Education (serving as fiscal agent), in partnership with the Office of the Governor and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction in Washington State. The official partner institutions in China are Sichuan University and Chongqing Municipal Education Commission.

Strengthening Washington–China Relationship

Washington State has had long and close ties with China. The first ship after the opening of relations came to the Port of Seattle in 1979. On a per capita basis, Washington trades more with China than any other state. China is the largest trading partner through Washington ports, one of the largest sources of international students at our educational institutions, and the second-largest agricultural export market with exports of over $1 billion. In other words, across nearly all categories of interaction, China is a huge partner for our region.

Confucius Institute Directors

Dr. Jeffrey Riedinger, Vice Provost for Global Affairs at the University of Washington, chairs the Confucius Institute Board of Directors. Dr. Michele Anciaux Aoki, International Education Administrator for Seattle Public Schools, chairs the Education Advisory Board for the Confucius Institute Education Center. The Chinese Directors are Deng Bo from Sichuan University and Wang Wenqiu representing the Chongqing Municipal Education Commission.
Program Focus Areas

Pathways for students of all ages
• Access to Chinese language programs from preschool through college level, including online language learning
• Assessment of language proficiency, including the HSK Chinese language proficiency test
• Opportunities to use language skills in the community and abroad
• Support for schools and districts to create an articulated Chinese language program

Pathways for teachers current and future
• Workshops on best practices in language learning and teaching
• Certification of teachers
• Mentoring of visiting teachers from China
• Educational trips to China

Sharing of Chinese language and culture
• Cultural and educational programs for schools, business, and the community
• Chinese cultural tours to communities throughout Washington by Chinese artists, performers, and teachers

Confucius Institute Partners

Seattle Public Schools:
• Chief Sealth International High School
• Denny International Middle School
• Seattle Public Schools International Education

University of Washington Higher Education Partners in Washington:
• Seattle University
• Shoreline Community College
• University of Puget Sound
• Washington State University

Community organizations:
• Chinese Language Teachers Association – Washington
• Seattle Chinese Garden
• Trade Development Alliance of Greater Seattle
• Washington State China Relations Council

“I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand.”
– Confucius

Pictured to the left: Madame Xu Lin, Director-General of Hanban, at the opening ceremony for the Confucius Institute of the State of Washington in Seattle, April 26, 2010.

Confucius Institute Education Center
Housed at Chief Sealth International High School and Denny International Middle School in Seattle Public Schools, the Confucius Institute Education Center provides a space dedicated to Chinese language and culture. The Education Center is open to teachers, students, and the public in the afternoon during the week and for evening classes and workshops, as well as language classes, workshops, and cultural programs on many weekends. It also provides space for the Confucius Institute Library for resources for loan and distribution.