

# The Traveler



The Monthly Newsletter of Global Indiana: A Consortium for International Exchange  
Volume II No. 15, March, 2012



**Sunnyside Hosts Chinese Students**

The Sunnyside School of International Studies, one of our newest members, recently hosted students and teachers from Xiaoyueyuan Primary School of Fengtai District in Beijing . These fourth through sixth graders spent an entire week in the homes of students from this MSD Lawrence Township school. Principal Erica Buchanan (pictured above, fifth from right in back row) said, "This has been a great opportunity for Sunnyside School of International Studies. We teach our students the value in connecting with other cultures and they were fortunate to have an authentic experience with students from another part of the world. Despite cultural differences, language barriers, and disparate traditions, we have learned that love, trust, and respect conquers all. We will never forget this learning experience."

Students were equally impressed with the experience...

"We may look different from them on the outside, but they are boys just like us on the inside! They like to wrestle and play; also math is their favorite!" — Caliel Hines, 6th grade, Mrs. Williams

It's amazing having them here! We teach them English, they teach us Chinese. But they are only going to be here for five days. Bummer. But having them here is an honor. This is the most amazing experience I have ever had in my life!" — Stephanie Sosa, 6th grade, Ms. Schkabl

Xiaoyueyuan students were brought to Sunnyside through the Chinese Education Connection. Global Indiana has also arranged for a partner in Zhejiang.



*The Consortium advances opportunities for global understanding, cultural exchange, economic development, and international study through the formation of partnerships with world nations that will prepare Indiana citizens to become contributing members*

# First Ever International Education Conference a Great Success

Global Indiana and the Central Indiana Educational Service Center cooperated to offer the first ever Midwest Conference on International Education. We had 96 paid attendees, and with guests, there were at least 110 people in attendance for the sessions on Saturday, February 25. The reception the evening before was also popular. Participants appreciated the chance to network and to get to know each other outside the “classroom setting.”

The keynote speaker, Merry Merryfield from Ohio State was a great hit with most of the crowd. Her breadth of experiences and her expert knowledge of international education here and elsewhere in the world provided many thought provoking ideas and concepts. Audience members learned a lot.

Another popular session was that provided by Janna Gullery who is employed by the New York-based non-profit, Service for Peace. This group’s thorough and

thoughtful way of providing youth with international learning projects may become a model we will adopt for middle and high school students.

The last session of the day was reserved for the introduction of some international exchange students who attend area high schools. Represented were Germany and Denmark with three students attending Seccina Memorial, Fishers, and Sheridan. The audience was entertained by hearing of the students’ experiences when they first arrived in the United States, and they were gratified to hear each of the students express their fondness for the United States.

Here are some quotes from the comments section of the evaluation form:

*“I really enjoyed the reception. It was a great way to network in an unstructured way...Sessions were targeted at key areas. I am taking lots of great new ideas home with me and I look forward to attending next year”*

*“Well organized and thought out! Thank you! This provided great opportunities to meet and chat with presenters. The rooms and technology worked out well.”*

*“It was great hearing from the students. They were wonderful!”*



Benedicte Hejgaard, Denmark, Hueseyin Kaya, Germany and Paul Schmitt, Germany

# *International Educators of the Year*

One of the conference highlights was the awards luncheon during which Global Indiana and CIESC presented four “International Educator of the Year” awards to four categories of educators. Winner of the college faculty category was Katie Brooks. Dr. Brooks was selected for her work with Burmese refugees and their children. She is an expert on linguistically and culturally marginalized children and is known throughout the country for her tireless work on their behalf.

Winner of the Administrator category was Dr. Nikki Woodson, superintendent of the MSD of Washington Township. Dr. Woodson has created an “All IB” district with all elementary and middle schools, as well as North Central High School, providing the International Baccalaureate curriculum. Dr. Woodson also presented at the conference. Her session was entitled, “Are You Teaching for the 21st Century.”

Winning the high school category was Mr. Francisco Hidalgo. Francisco was formerly on the staff at the International School of Indiana and now teaches Spanish at Park Tudor. His nominator wrote, “He speaks five languages himself, and at this point is teaching both French and Spanish at Park Tudor. During my lifetime, I have had many language teachers: he is singular in his ability to impart not only the language but to generate fluency in speaking.”

Finally, the elementary winner was Ms. Stacy Neal, who teaches third grade at Robey Elementary School in the MSD of Wayne Township. Stacy was nominated by her principal who said that their robust partnership with a Chinese primary school Hangzhou would not exist were it not for Stacy’s unflagging dedication to making the partnership work. Her planning and preparation made it possible for 18 students, parents, and faculty to travel to China in October. Robey is one of only three elementary schools in the state who have ventured to take a group to China.



Global Indiana officers pose with award winners. From left, President Chris McGrew, Stacy Neal, Dr. Katie Brooks, Dr. Nikki Woodson, Francisco Hidalgo, President-Elect Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, and Executive Director Phil Boley

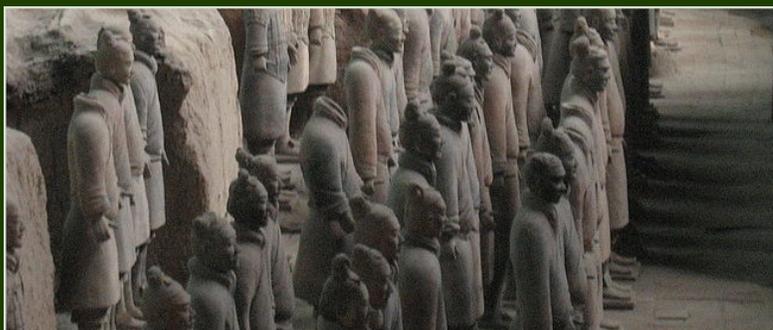


Global Indiana is a proud partner of the  
Central Indiana Educational Service Center



### Wave IX to Depart on April 4

Global Indiana is proud to be sending its ninth group of educators to China this spring. Representatives from East Noble Schools, Warsaw Community Schools, East Allen Schools, and Ivy Tech will be on the trip; which, for the first time will include the ancient capital of Xi-an. Xi-an is the home of the famous Terra Cotta Army, uncovered by archeologists relatively recently in 1974.



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**The Global Indiana *Traveler*  
Volume II , No. 15, March, 2012**