



## Global Teacher Training Initiatives: Focus on China

The Center for English as a Second Language (CESL) at the University of Arizona has been a leader in foreign and second language teacher training for decades. Recently, CESL has launched an initiative to upgrade English language teaching in China through a focused series of professional certificate programs, created to upgrade and enhance teacher skills through programs both at CESL and abroad at various locations in China.

While CESL has been providing teacher training for years, the current China professional certificate initiative evolved through a series of recent collaborative projects among UA Associate Professor of English, Dr. Jun Liu and the faculty and administration at CESL. At present we have trained nearly 40 teachers in China through an intensive 100-hour Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) program held in the summer of 2005 in Beijing at Capital Normal University. This was the first such program ever conducted in China. In addition, 38 participants from this summer program are participating in a 5 month on-line follow-up program by CESL specializing in advanced Second Language Acquisition and Action Research.

The potential for growth in English teacher training development in China is phenomenal. While China boasts an ever-increasing role in the world economy and technologies (with over 94 million internet users by the end of 2004<sup>1</sup>) and fervently prepares for the 2008 Beijing Olympics, the need for English language mastery expands exponentially in China. CESL is addressing this need both through quality teacher training as well as by recruiting of students directly for English training.

Currently CESL plans to expand our teacher training programs in China through a series of TEFL teacher training programs in Beijing and Shanghai (with plans to launch our next program in July 2006). Each program will build on previous levels with advanced level programs offering training in the United States through CESL (see attached schedule with program descriptors). Furthermore, plans are underway to cooperate with the Foreign Experts Placement Agency in Beijing which places English language teachers in over 4000 schools in China. By training teachers at CESL for placement in Chinese schools as well as training in-service English teachers in China, CESL is addressing a huge educational market in the world. Program expansion is developed internally at CESL and through cooperation with UA colleagues and expert Chinese visiting scholars.

As the only nationally accredited intensive English language program in Arizona, CESL offers quality affordable TEFL training to China's teachers. In turn, this global initiative raises the global presence of the University of Arizona in China, which in turn is expected to heighten the academic reputation of the U of A worldwide.

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<sup>1</sup> CIA World Fact Book, <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/ch.html> October 27, 2005