This program, offered to school principals and superintendents, provides a rare opportunity for professional development, personal growth, and friendship. It is sponsored by The China Exchange Initiative (Newton MA) and CEAIE (The Ministry of Education, Beijing, PRC), in conjunction with National Consortium for Teaching About Asia at the University of Pittsburgh.

Program Description:
The U.S.-China Administrator Shadowing Project (PA PSP) provides a unique opportunity for Chinese and American school administrators–superintendents and principals–to learn about and observe one another’s educational systems from close up. The school partner visits provide the opportunity to discuss future opportunities for student and faculty exchanges and joint educational projects.

The project involves a two-part commitment:
- In late October or early November 2010, Chinese administrators will visit Pittsburgh. After attending lectures on American education, which NCTA will arrange at universities, schools, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education, they will shadow partner principals or superintendents on the job for almost a week. Hosts will be responsible for scheduling school visits, finding host families, and arranging community activities, and finding interpreters.
- In April 2011, the Pennsylvania host administrators will visit China for two weeks for seminars and tourism in Beijing, prior to site visits at their counterparts’ schools in China. Participants will learn about secondary education and educational reform as well as observe the roles and responsibilities of school administrators.

Participants:
CEI selects superintendents and principals according to their visions of how this project can enrich school curriculum and engender ongoing relationships with Chinese counterparts.

Cost:
The cost to each participant will be $1800, which defrays some costs of hosting and travel. All travel costs are fully covered by The China Exchange Initiative for participants: flights to/from China, all meals, accommodations, programs, and travel in China.
Words from former participants:

“You can watch films and read books about schools in another culture, but, until you have a personal experience, observe teachers and students, and discuss educational practices, you cannot understand. This opportunity to participate in the experience is life changing. Bonds have been established to continue educational exchange for students and teachers. Due to our global economy, we need to establish and maintain these bonds for our students. Because of my visit to China and the visit of my Chinese principal, our school will start teaching Chinese in 2010….You are changing global education, one school system at a time.”

Kathleen Steele, Superintendent, Crawfordsville IN, 2009

“What struck me most was the attitude toward the future held by the students at the high school. These students were extremely patriotic and had high regard for their teachers and for education. While intense pressure for good grades leads to incredible stress, there was a sense of optimism. The Chinese students had a strong interest in world affairs. My plan is to return to North Reading with a greater focus on global education….I believe it is critical for our students to have a broader perspective in cultural and global issues.”

David Troughton, Superintendent, North Reading MA, 2007

美中校际交流组织

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