

The Road is Life

--Report on 2016 CIT High School Student China Trip
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Confucius Institute at Troy University (CIT) just returned home from China along with 20 American high school students that made the trip with them on the 2016 CIT High School Students China Trip.

In the two weeks the high school students were in China, from March 19 to April 3, they visited four different cities in China, including Beijing, Shanghai, Suzhou and Xuzhou, and experienced Chinese culture and interacted with local students of their own age.

During this short time span, they climbed up the Great Wall, entered into the Forbidden City, strolled the Long Corridor along the Kunming Lake in Summer Palace and drifted along the Grand Canal that has been flowing for thousands of years in Suzhou.





The students remarked not only in amazement of the cultural deposit of thousands of years, but were also surprised by the speed and achievement of China's

economic development when seeing the concrete forest of skyscrapers and glittery neon at the Bund in Shanghai.

In order to help them better understand Chinese high school education and Chinese family life, after a thorough investigation and careful planning, Dr. Iris Xu, director of Confucius Institute at Troy University, took them to Xuzhou at the second stop on their trip, arranged them to go to school in Jiangsu Normal University Affiliated School to learn Chinese poems and experience Kungfu.



The students also got the chance to spend time in prudently chosen local families by Dr. Xu and the school management.

The students come from five different Southeastern U.S. states, and it is because of their intense interest in Chinese language and Chinese culture that they came to Confucius Institute at Troy University.

The students first became attracted to Troy University and Confucius Institute during the STARTALK program, a language camp sponsored by the US government.

Their learning experience varies from one and a half year to about five years. Yet during the whole trip, the students were never afraid to exhibit their abilities and amazed everyone they met with their language fluency.

At the end of the trip, many students couldn't wait to come back to China again in the near future and expect to reunite with their fellow travelers in the summer of 2016 during STARTALK.