

tual mentors” – although it would be hard to decide who would be the mentor and who would be the mentee. In any case, I’d like to encourage us all to think creatively about ways to bridge the gap between teachers in K-12 and higher ed so that K-16 articulation can be achieved more successfully.

Many thanks to CLASS members Chris Delucia and Baocai Jia for taking the minutes and to Ginchi Wu and Yuanchao Meng for being the timekeepers.

(Submitted by Madeline K. Spring)

News from Chinese Language Teachers Association of Texas (CLTA-Texas)

Texas Awarded STARTALK Grant for Chinese Language Programs

The Chinese Language Teachers Association of Texas (CLTA-Texas) and the Dallas-Fort Worth Chinese Schools have been awarded a STARTALK grant to provide Student Chinese Programs and Chinese Teacher Workshops in Texas in 2008. The grant will be used to sponsor Ice Breaking Programs for middle and high students in Dallas and Houston. Each program offers a three-week Chinese language and culture course in June 2008 and is free for students. The goal of the Ice Breaking Programs is to enable student to gain Chinese language proficiency and culture knowledge through engaging communicative activities and culturally enriched experience. Texas STARTALK Programs follows the successful model developed by the Southern California Council of Chinese Schools (SCCCS), which was awarded the STARTALK grant in 2007. SCCC has provided assistance to Texas STARTALK programs. CLTA-Texas plans to apply for another STARTALK grant for summer 2009 to expand the student and teacher programs to Austin and San Antonio.



Chinese Teacher Workshop in Dallas, Fort Worth
1/18-19/2008

STARTALK funding will also sponsor the Chinese Teacher Professional Workshop to improve K-12 teachers’ pedagogical skills. The workshop provides 90-hour instruction on topics, such as *Teaching Chinese as a Second Language: Methods and Approaches*, *Curriculum Design*, *Language Assessment* and *Chinese Language Structure*. In addition, the trainees can participate in a teaching internship during the Ice Breaking Programs to implement their lesson plans and thematic units designed in the workshop. The courses offered in the workshop are free for the participants and are recognized as subject credits for entering teacher certification programs. Texas STARTALK programs plan to recruit 120 students and 40 teachers in Dallas and Houston. For more information, please email tx-startalk@hotmail.com and see the website <http://dfwstartalk.org/>.



Chinese Language Teaching in Greater Austin
3/29/2008

CLTA-Texas Organized Workshops and Seminars in Dallas, Austin and College Station
CLTA-Texas is devoted to promoting more K-12 schools offering Chinese language courses in