



Innovations in Mandarin Education: Fostering Community Collaboration

Speaker Bios



Terry B. Grier, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools, Houston Independent School District

Terry Grier became the Houston Independent School District's superintendent of school after a unanimous vote of the district's Board of Education in September 2009. Dr. Grier is widely recognized for his leadership in turning around failing schools. He has received numerous awards in recognition of his accomplished leadership. In 2014, he was named a finalist for the National Superintendent of The Year Award by the American Association of School Administrators. In addition, he is among a handful of superintendents named "State Superintendent of The Year" in two different states—Texas and North Carolina. The American Association of School Administrators presented him with the prestigious Effie H. Jones Humanitarian Award for his support of women and minorities in education. The Southwestern Regional Forum of the College Board presented him with their Martha H. Salmon Leadership Award for his role in expanding advanced placement opportunities for disadvantaged students. He and his wife, Nancy, have four grown children, a cat, and a cool dog.



Nine-Min Cheng

President and Principal of Chinese Language and Culture Connection

After retiring from private industry in 2001, Nine-Min accepted a position at the Houston Chinese Community Center (CCC) as the Community Outreach Director and the Principal of the Chinese School. Beginning in 2006, inevitable changes in the Mandarin learning market presented both a threat and an opportunity for Chinese language teaching. As a result, Nine-Min spearheaded the ongoing development to improve the quality of service at the Chinese school by not only attending the annual ACTFL Convention to absorb proven best practices of world language teaching but also leveraging CCC's 35-year Chinese Language and Culture teaching experiences and resources. She has devoted herself to the ongoing teachers' training, adding multicultural enriched curriculum to the Chinese Language program, implementing the Chinese-in-Action Immersion Summer Camp, and collaborating with Taiwan and China on teaching resources.



Yujen Lien

*Lecturer at Department of Language and Literature, National Taitung University
Ph.D. Candidate, Graduate Institution of Information and Computer Education*

Yujen Lien is a lecturer at the Department of Chinese Literature and Language at National Taitung University, Taiwan. He is also a Ph.D. candidate in the Graduate Institute of Information and Computer Education at National Taiwan Normal University, with a focus on the ICT integration training model on the teachers of teaching Chinese as a foreign/second language. He has nine years of experience integrating ICT with Chinese language learning and teaching, as well as developing digital materials. As a

college teacher and researcher, his primary research interests are emerging technologies and new forms of devices and social media in Chinese language education, especially instructional design with technologically supported courses and curriculum. Currently, he is using mobile devices and emerging technologies to interact with Chinese language teachers and learners worldwide.



Xiqiang (Tulun) Ou

*Master's Candidate, Teaching Chinese as a Second Language, National Taipei University of Education
Secretary, Association of Teaching Chinese as a Second Language, Taiwan*

Xiqiang Ou is currently a Chinese instructor at the Chinese Language Education Center at the National Taipei University of Education, as well as a graduate student in Teaching Chinese as a Second Language at the university. He also serves as the secretary of the Association of Teaching Chinese as a Second Language in

Taiwan and a Chinese instructor at Yes!Mandarin. He is certified by Taiwan's Ministry of Education for Proficiency in Teaching Chinese as a Second/Foreign Language and has authored various conference papers related to the topic.