



## News from the Evergreen Education Foundation



The Evergreen Education Foundation Official Newsletter  
Bringing Educational Opportunities to Rural China

November 2015

[www.evergreeneducation.org](http://www.evergreeneducation.org)

### Global Interest

**Our Conferences are aimed at bringing together participants from both within China and abroad**

### Acting on a Local Level

**Encouraging rural libraries to preserve and study local culture**

### Inside this issue: Follow the EEF journey

2015 Workshop	1-2
Technology Projects	2
Scholarship story	3
Workshop Volunteers	3
Chairman's Letter	4

## 2015 Rural Library Development Workshop Teaches Research Skills

This year's Beijing workshop on Project-Based Learning focused on how to design and implement excellent small projects. International Expert Speakers: Junzhi Jia, Liyun Hu, Mengxiong Liu, Louise Robbins, Jo Bell Whitlatch, and Yu Zhang led discussions and exercises focused upon enhancing the participating educators' skills related to: (1) forming a research question; (2) background research basics; (3) searching information sources for background research; (4) helping students develop sub-questions; (5) obtaining and explaining supporting evidence; (6)



*Seventh Evergreen Rural Library Development Workshop, July 2015, Beijing*

analyzing and evaluating arguments and evidence; and (7) creating arguments and justifications. The Workshop was a success, with participant exit surveys indicating that the content presented within a practical and engaging environment, was based on the actual needs of Schools participating with the Evergreen Education Foundation (EEF). The educators enjoyed the trip to the National Library and mentioned that it was a good space for applying the new skills learned in Workshop training.

Other Workshop highlights included the special presentations and sessions on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) topics as part of EEF's Science and Technology Center (STC) program presented by Rodney Amen, Guojuan Shang, and Jingyi Yu. Participants' appetites for STC were only whetted, with educators wishing for more details for STC projects and more time. Participants also indicated they would like to include school visits on future Workshop agendas to take a closer look at inquiry-based learning.

Next year's Evergreen Education 2016 Conference will focus on Makerspaces in Schools, Libraries, and the Community. Look for the announcement with details coming soon on our website [www.evergreeneducation.org](http://www.evergreeneducation.org) By Prof. Jo Bell Whitlatch and Prof. Louise Robbins

## Visit To The National Library Yields Research Experience

We are so impressed with how convenient the (Chinese) National Library (in Beijing) loans books and how friendly the library staff was.

What we can learn from the National Library includes online reservation, the classification of the books, the restriction of goods in the library and the signs reminding us to keep the library clean. The National Library will assist us in how to prepare background knowledge and do research in the library for our future small projects.

I learned how to search material for my teaching, especially in the training section prior to the visit to National Library, where I learned and applied some new information resources such as Duxiu, Chaoxin, and Wanfang. (Chinese on-line research databases)

We are truly thankful to Evergreen for providing us the great opportunities to see the world and learn new things.

*By Mei Long, Librarian at Kai Li No.1 High School, Guizhou Province*

## Danfeng High School Leads the Way for Evergreen STC Programs

Danfeng High School Principal Dongliang Li approaches the Evergreen Science and Technology team, extends his right hand to us, and says, "...before the (2012 Evergreen) Solar Lamp Project, we never thought of doing hands-on learning in the classroom; now we have many programs and plan to expand even more." Before the 2015 school year, Danfeng High School, in Shaanxi Province, applied for Science and Technology Center (STC) projects in Evergreen's Small Project program, and 2 of them were approved: Classroom Air Quality Monitoring, and Water Quality and Water Level Monitoring Model Based on the Arduino (microcontroller).



*Danfeng and Evergreen collaborated on the Solar Lamp project*

The two STC projects are in the domain of school information center and are supported by school library. Four student groups have been set up for the two projects. Each group has one tutor and at least 6 students. Project leaders will be in charge of student organization, project promoting, and general management. Initially, the school will start by giving students training on Arduino and electronic technique via general technology, informational technology teaching, and project activities. The Informational Technology teacher will teach students how the software works, and a more general technology teacher will be in charge of the hardware education. After about 2 hours of initial training, the groups will get together twice a week. One time will be on campus, and the tutor will attend the group activity; the main task is to work on the making process, project design, and assign tasks to students. The other weekly meeting will be after school activities during weekends, and it is organized by students; the main task is to expand and finish the campus activities.

After one year of practice, the students have learned some preliminary knowledge of Arduino and achieved their initial objectives. Danfeng High School plans to expand these two projects in 2015 and emphasize the practicability and creativity of the content to achieve the new aims.

Evergreen Education is proud of the accomplishments of Danfeng High School, this school is considered a leader in our STC program and we count on Danfeng to mentor the other schools participating in our STC program.

*By Guojuan Shang*

With your help, rural school libraries can use Evergreen small projects to help the teachers and students practice inquiry-based and collaborative learning

[www.evergreeneducation.org](http://www.evergreeneducation.org)

## Top of the Charts: Thesis Song is a Hit at 2015 Workshop



The fabulous team of Lou, Hu, and Yu captured the essence of workshop content Project-Based Learning focused on how to design and implement excellent small projects by creating and singing these educational and entertaining lyrics:

*(Sung to the tune of Frere Jacques or Are You Sleeping or the Dynasty Song)*

What's a THESIS?  
What's a THESIS?  
It's what you claim.  
It's what you claim.  
How do you defend it?  
How do you defend it?  
ARGUMENT.  
ARGUMENT.

What's an ARGUMENT?  
What's an ARGUMENT?  
It's a pillar of support.  
It's a pillar of support.  
How do you construct it?  
How do you construct it?  
EVIDENCE.  
EVIDENCE.

What is EVIDENCE?  
What is EVIDENCE?  
It's basic building blocks.  
It's basic building blocks.  
Where do you find them?  
Where do you find them?  
You tell me.  
You tell me.

## Workshop Volunteers from Everywhere Make It Happen

Behind the scenes at the 2015 workshop there are our precious volunteers, who make all the small things happen for the workshop. We all appreciate the volunteers and their generosity. From California, Tian Song, who volunteered as the workshop's "official" photographer, said of his experience, "The workshop was great and it was well organized. I was impressed with the enthusiasm of the participants and the hard work from the volunteers. My favorite memory is the moment we were taking the group picture (on page 1). I can see all the happy and smiling faces captured by my camera. What a wonderful moment!"

Attendees first meet the volunteer team at check in time, but before that time there are preparations: bringing workshop material, daily snacks, cases of water, and executing the details that make the workshop run smoothly. A hotel room is used for storage and staging, which creates the look of a warehouse rather than a hotel room. As almost as a secondary purpose, this room served as the dorm room for 3 of us female volunteers. Guojuan Shang, who lives in Kunshan, China and is Evergreen's Science and Technology Coordinator was joined by two other volunteers.



*Guojuan Shang*

Jiali Yang, who lives in Beijing and a newcomer to the Evergreen Workshop, had this to say: "The workshop is a good way to help teachers in rural areas of China improve their teaching skills. Many charitable foundations just give money, which helps but doesn't solve real problems. The EEF Workshop is different, where teachers get training. Professor Faith Chao gave a lecture once in Changsha, Hunan Province; it is such a special memory for me. I hope I can be as energetic and enthusiastic as she is."



*Jiali Yang*

As another newcomer to the Evergreen Workshop volunteers, I'm from California and now live in Connecticut, and found the environment so welcoming and the people so generous. Everyone was there to learn and help out, and the can-do spirit was infectious. I've known Faith for some time as a family friend and as someone who is not only gifted intellectually, but is also gifted in bringing the best out of people. I'm just glad I was able to come along for the journey, and engage in some meaningful work with Evergreen!



*Jessica Lee*

If you are interested in volunteering for Evergreen's conferences and workshop please email us at [info@evergreeneeducation.org](mailto:info@evergreeneeducation.org) *By Jessica Lee*

---

**Provide an  
Opportunity,  
donate to the  
Evergreen  
Scholarship  
Program**

[www.evergreeneeducation.org](http://www.evergreeneeducation.org)

---

## Reflections from a Former Scholarship Student on Becoming a Teacher

It is already in autumn now. I am wearing a warm sweater and talking to my old friend Guojuan Shang about Evergreen. A lot of memories warmed my heart. I was in tenth grade when I first met Evergreen. I hardly remember the first time that I met Professor Faith Chao, but the most impressive thing from that first time meeting is that I was the volunteer and enjoyed communicating with Evergreen people and some experts. What a wonderful experience. When I went to college, Guojuan Shang and I went to the same college, and Evergreen still helped us. Auntie Yu (Evergreen Scholarship Program Coordinator, Jingyi Yu) came to Xi'an and visited us. I can't forget the night that three of us sat together, chatting and eating sugarcane in the lobby of the hotel. Time flies, and I already graduated from Shaanxi Normal University this summer. Now I am a chemistry teacher in Baiyin, Gansu Province. I enjoyed my teaching life a lot because that was my dream since I was a little girl. Also, this is the most simple and precious lifestyle that I want to pursue. Thanks Evergreen so much for helping me realize my dream. I also told my lovely students about the story of Evergreen and me, because this is a story about love and help. I want to pass the spirit of love and help to my students too, just like Evergreen did.

*By Yujuan Qiao, former EEF Scholarship Student from Tianzhu Tibetan Autonomous Country in Gansu Province*



*Yujuan Qiao*



青樹教育基金會

Evergreen Education Foundation is a 501c3 non-profit organization (Fed tax ID 68-047481A). Guide Star search for: "The Evergreen Education Foundation" in Richmond, CA.

Contact Us  
Phone: 1-415-602-4754

Email us:  
[info@evergreeneducation.org](mailto:info@evergreeneducation.org)

On the Web:  
[www.evergreeneducation.org](http://www.evergreeneducation.org)

Editor: Rodney Amen  
Proofreaders: Jessica Lee and Jo Bell Whitlatch  
Translators: Guojuan Shang and Melinda Hu

---

**Donate on the Web using  
Pay Pal or use our  
Donation Form**

---

The Evergreen Education Foundation Official Newsletter  
Bringing Educational Opportunities to Rural China

## 2016 Conference Highlights Makerspaces and Technology

Evergreen is currently working hard on the plans for next year's conference with the theme of Makerspaces in rural China. We will have three main subject areas: 1. High Tech Innovators and Creators. 2. Makerspaces for Anyone in the Community. 3. Makerspaces for Students and Educators. While highlighted by International and local technology experts, our Science and Technology Center (STC) program will also be on display with a student project poster exhibition and contest. Check our website early next year for announcements and news about the Conference.

[www.evergreeneducation.org](http://www.evergreeneducation.org)

---

## Evergreen Education Foundation Chairman's Letter



Dear Friends,

When you read this, 2015 will come to a close with as planning for an exciting ITIE 2016 Conference is shaping up. The idea for next year's ITIE Conference came about from the work that has been done in the past couple years, and with input from school educators and our leadership team's recent visits to libraries and educational institutions after the 2015 Workshop in July. More on the 2015 Workshop can be found in this newsletter.

While a lot of the details in planning ITIE 2016 has to be finalized among our partnering libraries in China, we have agreed on the theme: MakerSpace. The planned line-up of speakers, if secured, would be a dream come true. The president of Evergreen Education Foundation (EEF), Faith, is working her magic on this potentially transformative event. This conference will surely benefit all conference participants, in addition to providing fruitful opportunities for the school educators that EEF has worked with for many years.

On that note, I am happy to announce the expansion of the EEF roster by three schools in GuangXi Zhuang Autonomous Region, all in less economically privileged areas with communities that can replicate the successes of their peers.

I am also happy to mention that one of the volunteers at the 2015 Workshop has joined the Evergreen family; Guojuan will be supporting one of EEF's key initiatives, the Science and Technology Center (STC). STC is the brainchild of two EEF Board members, Rodney and JingYi. The Solar Lamp project, carried out by a couple of our partner schools, is a shining example of what STC can achieve.

EEF's work cannot go far without your support. I would like to thank you and earn your continued support in serving the community at large, with the library as the fulcrum. If you know anyone who would like to go with us on this journey, direct their investments towards projects and programs that align with their worldviews, or help school educators, please pass this newsletter on or feel free to introduce me at [john.ele81946@gmail.com](mailto:john.ele81946@gmail.com).

Finally, on last year's successful dollar-for-dollar matching campaign, I pledge to match dollars for dollars again in new donations, up to \$10,000. New donations must be received in currency or stock before Christmas this year.

Warmest,  
John