



# Teachers of Critical Languages Program Program Newsletter

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برنامج معلمي اللغات الحرجة

June 2015 Issue 7

## Critical Language Projects:

TCLP alumni strengthen language instruction at home and abroad

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## Welcome to the 2015-2016 Teachers

TCLP looks forward to welcoming a new cohort of twenty-three teachers from Egypt and China to Washington DC on July 28, 2015 and starting another exciting year!

[Click here to see where they are headed](#)

## End-of-Year Photo Contest Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the TCLP Moment photo contest, Mohamed Abouraya and Chen Xiaomei!

## A Letter from the State Department

Greetings from the U.S. Department of State!

We hope this latest installment of the Alumni newsletter will remind you of friends and old acquaintances, as well as keep you up to date on what's new with the Teachers of Critical Languages Program. We especially would like to thank our partners at American Councils for International Education who administer this program on behalf of the U.S. government.

As teachers we continuously innovate-both inside and outside the classroom. TCLP is no different. This year the program ushered in a new virtual platform for conducting the Spring Workshop. In addition, we've been connecting and engaging program alumni with virtual conferences. We look forward to seeing you at the next virtual conference. And, please let us know if you have suggestions for strengthening engagement.

We hope this summer allows you time to recharge, refresh, and renew your commitment to teaching excellence.



Photo by Mohamed Abouraya



Photo by Chen Xiaomei

See the honorable mentions on our Facebook Page

### TCLP Proudest Moments

Exchange teachers share professional achievements from the past year.

TCLP teachers were eager to discuss their proudest teaching moments with American Councils staff this spring. Chinese teachers shared their stories during a group dinner that followed the National Chinese Language Conference in Atlanta, Georgia this April, while Egyptian teachers connected with staff online during a virtual focus group in May.

Many teachers expressed satisfaction at seeing a growing interest in studying Mandarin and Arabic among students and parents at their schools. TCLP participants were also proud to share

## News

### TCLP Virtual Spring Workshop

For the first time in TCLP history, the May workshop was conducted virtually. This three-day event was hosted in Washington, D.C. from May 6-8, 2015 and accessed by teachers in their host communities via the internet. [Read More](#)



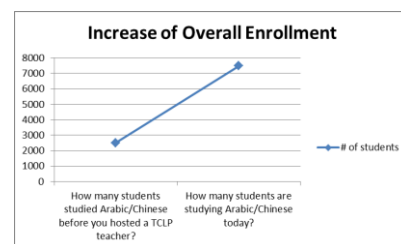
### 2nd Annual TCLP Virtual Alumni Training Conference

From February 4-5, 2015 TCLP gathered alumni from China, Egypt, and the United States with the purpose of providing virtual training for building international sister school relationships. [Read More](#)



### Host School Alumni Survey Points to Positive Impact

Recently, TCLP staff sent out an alumni survey to host schools and international alumni. The survey results showed impressive findings. There was close to a 300% increase in overall enrollment from the 38 schools that responded to the survey. [Read More](#)



the culture of their countries with students alongside language instruction, including songs, games, cuisine, and festival activities

"I feel a sense of success for the celebration of the New Year because parents are interested in having students in Chinese next year" said Xu Menghong, Chinese teacher at Laurens District 55 High School in South Carolina.

Sabreen Kamel, Arabic teacher at Disney II Magnet School in Illinois, similarly maintained that cultural activities are an important aspect of learning a language. "When students are interested to know more about the person, they become interested in the language" said Ms. Kamel.

Adjusting to American teaching methods, particularly student-centered instruction, was another source of pride for many teachers.

"I am more confident in student-centered teaching methods" said Wang Haiyan, Chinese teacher at Etowah High School in Georgia.

Teachers reported various achievements of individual students in their classes as well, many of whom had never had exposure to Mandarin or Arabic prior to TCLP.

"When the teacher

## Alumni Spotlight

### Strengthening Sino-U.S. Friendships

After participating in TCLP, Zhang Hong began to work in her home school's Foreign Affairs Office, continuing to make efforts to strengthen the friendship between China and the U.S. This past November, Ms. Zhang was in charge of the preparations and hosting responsibilities for the 2014 Chinese-Bridge for the American Principals' Sino-U.S. Seminar. [Read More](#)



### Winning the Mini-Class Contest

By Sun Liang

Last year, I was thrilled when I received an invitation to attend an orientation about using the "Mini Class" model, which is a strategy used in language classes that encourages student-centered conversations rather than a lecture format. I was chosen because my teaching experience in a U.S. middle school. [Read More](#)



notices improvement, this is the most important thing as teachers" said Yasser Eldeabas, Arabic teacher at Columbia Heights Education Campus in the District of Columbia. "This is what I am most proud of."

## 2015 TCLP Essay Contest Winners

*TCLP teachers reflect on their year in the U.S.*

After living and working in their American host communities for nearly a year, TCLP teachers had the opportunity to share their best stories and advice in this year's essay and video contests.

Teachers submitted anecdotes and short stories based on their time in the U.S. in the Spring Essay Contest. Yang Ruirui of East-West School of International Studies in New York received first prize for her essay *My First Friends*, in which she reflects on her experience living with an American host family. Wang Haiyan of Etowah High School in Georgia and Xiong Jun of Audubon Charter School in Louisiana received Honorable Mentions for their essays *Dream Come True* and *Being a Better Me*, respectively.

All essay submissions were compiled into a yearbook that the next

## TCLP Alumni meet at NileTESOL Conference

On January 27-28, 2015 TCLP Alumnus met at the 19th NileTESOL Conference at the American University in Cairo New Cairo Campus. In attendance were 2011-2012 alumnus Mohamed El-Dwiny, Ayman Abdelkhalek, Heba Houzaien, Alshimaa Salama, and 2013-2014 alumni Mohamed Mehanny. They attended several educational workshops and shared fond memories of their time in the U.S. They are hoping to meet again and share more ideas with an even larger group of TCLP alumni next time.



## Be Featured in the Next Alumni Spotlight

Take our [Alumni Success Survey](#), or [email us](#) about your latest accomplishments!

## 2015 TCLP Video Contest Winners

*TCLP teachers showed off their production skills in the Spring Video Contest, in which they offered advice for future exchange teachers and host schools.*

Ahmed Mohamed of Watertown Middle School in Massachusetts received first prize for creating a video that provided tips for new exchange teachers on how to adapt to their host communities. Mr. Mohamed's video will be shown to the upcoming cohort of exchange teachers at their pre-departure orientations in China and Egypt. Mohamed Abouraya of Columbus North International School in Ohio and Ali Mohamed of Truesdell Education Campus in the District of Columbia received Honorable Mentions for their video contest submissions.

cohort of exchange teachers will receive this during their pre-departure orientations this summer. The winning essays can be found on the [TCLP Website](#)



[Ahmed Mohamed's Advice for Exchange Teachers](#)



[Mohamed Abouraya's Advice for Host Schools](#)



**Ali's advice to YOU**

[Ali Mohamed's Advice for Exchange Teachers](#)

Access Knowledge. Access the World.