

The Certificate Program in Teaching Chinese to Speakers of Other Languages

(T C S O L)

by Vicky Chang



In order to meet the rapid growth of Chinese Language learning and the demand for Chinese teachers in the United States, especially in New York City, Teachers College, Columbia University, is now offering a brand new program — the Certificate Program in Teaching Chinese to Speakers of Other Languages (TCSOL). Co-sponsored by the TESOL and applied linguistics programs at Teachers College, Columbia University, and the Chinese language program in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures and Asia for Educators at Columbia University; TCSOL not only provides state-of-the-art training in Chinese pedagogy for pre-service teachers, but also provides professional development for in-service teachers to assist them with honing their teaching abilities. The program focuses primarily on training teachers to apply task-based instruction in their classes.

Throughout this past academic year, students in the program have received training in all aspects of Chinese language teaching. Core courses of the

program include a teaching Practicum, Second Language Acquisition, Pedagogical theory, Assessment, and Educational Linguistics, all of which are taught by Professor Han of Teachers College and Prof Liu from the East Asian Department of Columbia University. In addition to these courses, Professor Purpura, of TC, has contributed a Second Language Assessment workshop and Professor Waring, of TC, has presented a cultural awareness workshop for students in the program. The TCSOL program also connects the teaching of Chinese with technological innovations and gives students an overview of the current Chinese Language education situation by inviting guest speakers from all over the world.

During this past year, TCSOL has gone through many transformational experiences. On May 2, 2009, the first class of students graduated. Through networking with other language institutes and schools, more than half of the program graduates were employed immediately upon graduation. In fact, you might even run into a couple of the recent TCSOL graduates in the Community Language Program starting this summer. Furthermore, the program has already doubled in size, and has received over 40 applications for the upcoming session (fall 2009 spring 2010). The TCSOL program is currently looking towards the future with the aim of continually improving the understanding and abilities of Chinese language educators.

For more information about the TCSOL program, please visit our website at: <http://www.tc.columbia.edu/tcsol/> or contact Vicky via e-mail: tsol@tc.columbia.edu

**“Those who know nothing of
foreign languages know
nothing of their own.”**

**--Johann Wolfgang von
Goethe**