



News from the Evergreen Education Foundation



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

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www.evergreeneducation.org

**"...those who did not know
makerspace gained some
understanding of it"**

Vicky Gao,

National Library Singapore

Makerspace Contest Highlights ITIE Conference

Every two years, Evergreen Education Foundation (EEF) hosts an international conference in China to promote and strengthen the use of libraries. Our November the conference theme was Makerspaces. The main conference event was the ITIE 2016 Makerspace: Design & Create



Visiting a Makerspace in Shenzhen

Contest, which was announced in May 2016. This contest was open to students attending 6th grade to 12th grade from China and USA.

Guided by their teachers and mentors, students were challenged to use their creativity to complete two tasks: design a makerspace for their school, which included a tool list and budget; and complete a hands-on maker project based on the students' interests or community needs.

This contest aimed to give teachers and students an opportunity to learn and think about how to design an actual functional makerspace as well as a chance to complete a hands-on maker project. By carrying out this opportunity to discover, try new ideas, and learn the importance of the iterative process, participants gained valuable insights on the theoretical and practical aspects of designing and creating through makerspace. Students also learned vital skills required to be successful in life including: critical thinking, teamwork, planning, budgeting, organizing, and time management.

Fourteen schools put in an application: 11 schools in China and 3 schools in USA. These schools had no or very little knowledge of Makerspaces and hands-on projects. All of the 14 schools entered themselves at the Novice level. After Round 1 submittal, 3 schools were judged not qualified. The remaining 11 schools were invited to the ITIE 2016 international conference and workshop in Shenzhen and Guangzhou where they had the opportunity to visit the Shenzhen ChaiHuo Makerspace and present their work at the Guangzhou library exhibition booths. The top scoring 6 schools in Round 3 were also invited to Wuhan University to present their exhibition booths and do a 10 minute presentation in front of school principals and administrators. The contest is now in its final round and awards will be announced by December 30th, 2016. *Continued on page 4*



Students share their creations

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Principal Jiang

At Tianzhu No. 1 High School, in Tianzhu Tibetan Autonomous County, Gansu, Principal Guodong Jiang is about to end his 13 year career. Jiang speaks systematically and in detail, reflecting his deep thinking in the school culture, institutions, and curriculum.

Tianzhu No. 1 High School in the past 13 years advanced its status twice in 2005 and 2014. Collaboration with Evergreen (EEF) was an important factor of these advancements. During 2001-2003 the library completed circulation automation. Since 2009, EEF small projects and two 3 year extended projects (oral history, farmer IT training), were important factors for the second advancement of the school. *Continued on page 4*

“I Love Evergreen” a Scholarship Student Reminisces

Hello, I am Jing QinFeng from Qinghai Province in China. Time is fleeting, four years of college have ended, and I wanted to write to Evergreen Education after I graduated. When I was still a high school student and a young and naïve face, the university was only a dream of mine until I found the Evergreen scholarship program. I'm still very moved by this. After the college entrance examination, I was admitted to a top university. Now, I have already graduated from college; four years went by like a dream. When I see that Evergreen is leaving such a successful legacy I feel happiness in my heart. I remember that year as a new college freshman, I felt huge pressure because everyone around is so excellent, I saw the gap between them and others. I often walked in the campus by myself to reflect on each day as a memory that I won't forget. I was thinking at that time, Evergreen encouraged me to work hard in high school. My mom and dad had hoped for something good for me, I began to increase my effort and my grades have been very good. I began to participate in various community activities to enrich my life. I felt very strong, and I was able to adapt to unfamiliar environments. I went to the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China for an internship during my college junior year and later had an internship in a foreign company, so I didn't need to ask my mom and dad for money during my senior year. I used the money I saved to pay off my student loan when I graduated, and now I have become a management trainee in a company to start my career. Everything is full of moving memories. I thank the efforts of myself, my school, the group of excellent schoolmates, and thank you so much for the support of everyone in Evergreen. Entering the society now and working, although I have a lot of pressure, I think of those days in school. I have learned that life always has frustration and pride, don't be discouraged when you are frustrated, don't forget oneself in your pride, be neither humble nor pushy, stay down-to-earth. Thank you Evergreen.



By Qinfeng Jing

Did you know that in addition to dedicated donation channels, you can also support us even while shopping through

<http://smile.amazon.com/>

?

Make The Evergreen Education Foundation your selected charity, and enjoy your shopping even more.

Crowdfunding in the Information Age



Crowdfunding is a trending and increasingly popular method of raising money collectively from many people to support a cause, and has become a perfect fit for funding Evergreen projects. After careful comparison and evaluation of a list of crowdfunding platforms, we selected GlobalGiving: a project-based crowdfunding provider specifically supporting non-profit organizations. It is the largest and most-reliable fund raising platform in the field, with automated, easy-to-follow registration and project-posting processes. While providing good support and fund-raising trainings, it also sets the bar high: an organization must pass an Open Challenge to qualify to use the platform, and must submit project reports quarterly to maintain the partnership status. Evergreen participated in the 12-day GlobalGiving Open Challenge in March 2016, launched the project, www.globalgiving.org/projects/train-teachers-in-rural-china-to-create-future/ successfully completed the campaign and won the partnership! With the strong support received, we received highest donation amount among 232 participating non-profit organizations to win an additional bonus prize of \$3,000 from GlobalGiving! By end of November, total generous donations of \$23,430 from around 180 donors had been received, which was successfully used to sponsor teachers to attend the Evergreen ITIE2016 conference. In addition to monetary achievements, we are also able to promote Evergreen's vision, rationale and projects through the GlobalGiving platform, and gain volunteer and expertise resources from people we resonate with. Many donors enthusiastically helped market and broadcast Evergreen to their friends and social circles, mainly through WeChat and Facebook. The experience of crowdfunding through GlobalGiving also helped us with organization capacity building as an NGO. Its project reporting service provided a transparent and well-structured communication channel for us to regularly update our donors so that they can see, in a timely manner, the impact of their donations of money and effort. We are learning marketing and reporting skills in the process.

By Jingjing Wei

Teachers Reflect on the ITIE Conference Experience

In the ITIE2016 conference reflection session, we got lots of feedback from our teachers.

Yongli Lu, the teacher from Kaili No.1 Middle School, shared two points that she learned from ITIE conference. First, she participated in Design Thinking Workshop twice and by the end she realized what real design and dialogues are. Second, as a history teacher, she was inspired by the workshop 'Making for History Learning' and realized that history can be included in making as well.

Xuejun Yang, the teacher from Tongwei No.1 Middle School, concluded that it would be better



Panel discussions share ideas at ITIE 2016

and criticize others' ideas at the beginning.

Ximing Li, the teacher from Tianzhu No. 2 Middle School, shared that he felt what some students do at the school clubs now are maker projects too. The values of making are: learning by doing and experiential learning. Also, it is important for different schools to set their goals for their makerspace based on their resources and environment. In addition, the support from administrators is essential to ensure its success.

Xiaoyang Zhang from Danfeng Middle School mentioned a very sensitive topic of the Chinese National College Entrance Exam. Every teacher has a pressure from CNCEE, and they know that the rote learning students get from CNCEE is not what teachers and students really want. We are glad that we can demonstrate our knowledge in a different way.

In all, teachers all showed their interest in incorporating making into their curriculum in certain ways. They understand that libraries are the perfect match for makerspace because of its easy access to diverse people and abundant resources. Even though teachers still have questions on appropriate space and resources and how to involve students without affecting their academic performance, we are thrilled to see the changes happening in their thinking and their determination to provide the kids with a better education.

By Guojuan Shang

for students to think and work following their interests, with the teacher as a guide and supporter instead of a lecturer.

Jiqing Xia, the teacher from Huaian No.1 Middle School, points out that makers don't have to make something high-tech, and they can get ideas from what is around them.

Also, the students must not give the answers

Makers don't have to make something high-tech...they can get ideas from what is around them.

Jiqing Xia, teacher from Huaian

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Professor Wong joins EEF as Newest Board Member

Our newest board member is Professor Winnie Wong. She holds a B.A. degree in Math from UC Berkeley, M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Applied Math from UCLA. She then ran a successful advanced-math preparation after school in San Diego, CA for 7 years before moving back to the Bay Area. Dr. Wong became an assistant professor in Mathematics at Notre Dame De Namur University in Belmont, CA and also teaches at De Anza College. She owns and actively runs a pre-collegial STEM academy that focuses on project based learning for middle and high school students.

Professor Wong firmly believes in giving back to her alma maters, the community, and paying forward globally. Besides serving on the board at Evergreen Education Foundation, she is a volunteer at her sons' school coaching and preparing students for Math competitions and she is also a volunteer scholarship reader and interviewer for UC Berkeley and UCLA's freshman and transfer classes.

Professor Wong's sister, Susan Wong does accounting for EEF and suggested Winnie volunteer after Winnie told her sister she felt it is time for her to give back and pay forward to the society. Prof. Wong said, "I trust her good judgement and I was not disappointed. Her (Susan's) loyalty and confidence in EEF and to Faith's (Chao) passion and dedication prompts me to accept your invite to sit on the board without hesitation. Susan believes in EEF and so do I..."

Professor Wong recently led the Makerspace contest project for EEF's ITIE conference in November 2016.





青樹教育基金會

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ITIE 2016 Makerspace Contest

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To enable this contest, EEF spent close to US\$20,000.00 for grants, material subsidies, and awards. In addition, EEF sponsored several teachers and students to Shenzhen, Guangzhou, and Wuhan University. EEF considers this amount as money well spent and will continue to sponsor similar contests and workshops to encourage rural area schools' involvement and participation in makerspace and making. EEF is initiating a new "Maker Portfolio Pathway" to help EEF students create a maker portfolio for college entrance submission that currently is required by many universities. Stay tuned for our next adventure with our schools!

By Winne Wong

Tianzhu's Retiring Principal Looks Back at Evergreen Relationship

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Jiang states, "During the past 15 years I collaborated with the Evergreen from the very beginning. The assistance, including the scholarships, is like giving charcoal in snowy weather. But as an Evergreen follower, I feel that our greatest gains are those in concepts and ideas, including how to teach and cultivate students, how to get along with others, how to learn, how to change our behavior, how to innovate, how to organize activities, how to design training. All these are greatly helpful to us. Not to mention the service spirit and personal charisma...they made a big impact on me, and some of our teachers. So this is a marvelous thing. This is the real wealth."

By Yu Zhang

Chairman's letter

Dear Friends,

2016 is probably the best year that I can recall about our work and organization.

Notably,

- ITIE 2016 conference was the most ambitious undertaking, meeting sequentially in four cities with four co-hosting institutions. Its impact goes far beyond EEF teachers and students,
- Professor Winnie Wong joined the Board. She and the team has taken us to a new level with the ITIE 2016 theme, and
- EEF has piloted a crowdfunding platform that publicizes Evergreen's programs to a much bigger audience than the EEF Website. EEF schools can consider trying to fund future projects through the GlobalGiving Platform.

Looking forward, we will continue to explore more impactful ways to further our mission and adapt to new regulation.

Of all the program offerings EEF brings, personally, I derive equally if not greater satisfaction mentoring university students. One recent comment received was that my mentee's outlook changed positively with regular conversations via email. She found her direction and is planning for her second degree next year.

When you share your experience with your friends and relatives, we can broaden our reach and sustain positive impact. This can take the form of programs, projects, training and collaboration with educators and students in the less well-endowed rural areas in China.

Happy Holidays!

John



I feel that our greatest gains are those in concepts and ideas
Principal Jiang