



Of Maine

梅茵州中国语言文化中心

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

*Chinese Language and Culture Center of Maine and the Bangor Chinese School
Designated as Confucius Classroom*

BANGOR, Maine (January 10, 2012) the Chinese Learning and Cultural Center of Maine (CLCCM), the Bangor Chinese School, announce that Hanban/Confucius Institutes of China has designated the Bangor-based educational program as a "Confucius Classroom." Hanban, located in Beijing, is a public institution affiliated with the Chinese Ministry of Education. It is committed to providing Chinese language and cultural teaching resources and services world-wide, it works on behalf of foreign Chinese learners and contributes to the development of multiculturalism and the building of a harmonious world.

According to CLCCM's Executive Director, Jing Zhang of Bangor, "This is a great honor for our Maine-based educational programs and will enable us to expand our teaching of Chinese language to schools and universities in our home state of Maine. The designation of CLCCM as a Confucius affiliate was announced at a meeting of the Chinese Consul General's Office in New York City. Presided over by Cen Jian Jun, the Consulate General of China.

Coincident with that, CLCCM also signed an agreement with Xin Baozhong, Vice Director General of Education Heilongjiang Province in northeastern China. The accord clears the way for educational and cultural exchange between CLCCM and the Province of thirty-eight million people. Heilongjiang is the province that houses Nangang, Harbin which is Bangor's Chinese sister-city. After photos and a signing ceremony, the CLCCM delegation was taken to the United Nations and an evening reception and calligraphy exhibition. The hosts included Cen Jian Jun and Wang Ying, education counselors of the Consulate general's Office. There, the Bangor delegation was able to meet with United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at a pleasant soirée.

Former Bangor Mayor, Gerry Palmer, who was a key player in the development of the Bangor-Harbin sister city union remarked, "This fledgling relationship between our two communities and the Province continues to grow and develop in many important areas, including education, art, and business. This growth benefits both Bangor and Harbin. The building of trust and goodwill between our two cultures should be encouraged."

Eliot Cutler, Business man and candidate of Governor, Don Reutershan, language specialist of Maine Department of Education and many others have been giving huge support to the project.

Dr. James T. Kenny, a CLCCM board member who was in attendance, "notes that Hanban's "Confucius" designation provides our organization national and international recognition and resources to expand our mission in the teaching of Chinese language in Maine. In addition, it will provide resources to support the work already undertaken by the Bangor Chinese School with grants from the National Security Agency and the United States department of State. Both of these federal agencies direct efforts toward a network of programs aimed at teaching languages that are not normally offered in American schools." Jing Zhang, Dr. Suzhong Tian, all board members and staff of CLCCM and the Bangor Chinese School have been active since the founding of these organizations in 2005. They have been active in the sponsorship of numerous language and cultural programs in the Bangor area including Bangor's STARTALK, NSLI-Y, Annual Maine Chinese Conference, Chinese New Year Festival, student exchange and language programs in a number of area schools.

