



CONWAY HIGH STUDENTS WITH CUT PAPER CHARACTERS

## UCA Confucius Institute

Founded in 2007, the UCA Confucius Institute is part of a global network of more than 300 Confucius Institutes in nearly 100 countries dedicated to the promotion and development of culture, language and business exchange with the People's Republic of China.

It is the only one of its kind in Arkansas and it exists to facilitate engagement with China in ways that strengthen the understanding, opportunities and interaction between Arkansas and the people of China.



### UCA Confucius Institute

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## 孔子学院

Partnerships working to help Arkansas youth build bridges into the future

uca.edu/confucius  
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PROGRAM STUDENTS IN SHANGHAI

## GROWING DEMAND FOR CHINESE

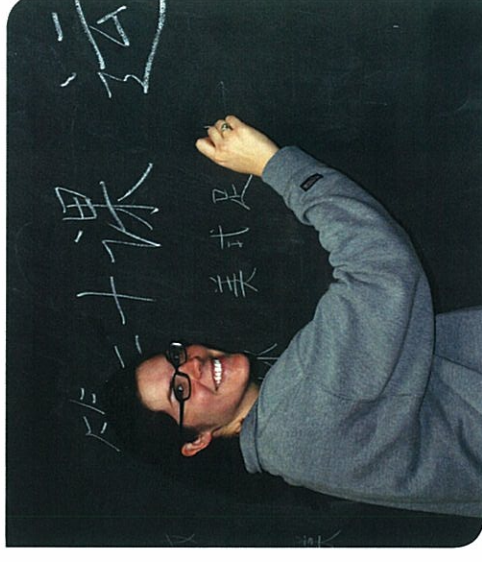
Although a growing number of schools have begun Chinese language programs, there is much progress to be made. Arkansas is in an excellent position to become a leader in this arena.

## THE FACTS

- ▶ Chinese is the most widely spoken first language of any other language, spoken by 1.3 billion people, roughly 20% of the earth's population
- ▶ Over 200 million Chinese schoolchildren are studying English (often beginning as early as the second grade), but no more than 50,000 students in the U.S. are studying Chinese. This is less than 4% of foreign language enrollment.
- ▶ China's economy is 2<sup>nd</sup> only to that of the U.S., and is a major trading partner. Knowledge of Chinese language and culture is an increasingly important asset in remaining competitive in today's global economy.

## Concurrent Enrollment

UCA offers concurrent enrollment credit in Chinese for Arkansas students. If a high school student of junior or senior standing has a minimum GPA of 3.0 and an ACT score of at least 19, they qualify for concurrent enrollment at UCA for college credit at UCA. If qualifications are met, then the student merely enrolls, pays a 30 dollar fee, and takes the same high school Chinese class as his or her non-concurrent enrolled peers. Hours earned can be applied to either general education requirements for foreign language, or they can go toward preparation for a Chinese minor now offered at UCA.



## Teach Chinese in Arkansas Program

The Program enters its 3<sup>rd</sup> year in 2010. It is a partnership between Hanban, the Arkansas



WALDRON HIGH SCHOOL CHINESE CLASSROOM

Department of Education, East China Normal University, the University of Central Arkansas, and the school districts. ADA interviews and selects qualified teachers from partner universities in China to teach in Arkansas. The teachers are trained through ADE in Non-traditional License Program. All teachers have master's degrees in teaching Chinese as a second language.

## Current Partners

Currently 13 school districts in Arkansas are collaborating with UCA CI to offer Chinese language programs with great success. These school districts include: Arkansas School for Math, Science and Arts in Hot Springs, Batesville, Beebe, Bentonville, Cabot, Conway, Cross County, Harrisburg, Hot Springs, North Little Rock, Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative, Pulaski County Special School District and Wynne.