

NOTE: Due to technical difficulties, the September 2009 issue of North Carolina in the World NEWS has lost much of its formatting. We apologize for the appearance!



### Tarheel Highlights

Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler led a North Carolina delegation to China in August in search of markets for tobacco, soybeans, cotton and other commodities. He signed an agreement with officials from Yunnan, a province with agriculture similar to North Carolina's, to find areas of mutual benefit. To read more, go to: <http://www.agr.state.nc.us/paffairs/release/2009/7-09chinatrademission.htm>.

Close to 400 educators have pre-registered for this week's Foreign Language Association of North Carolina Annual Conference. The 43rd annual event presents workshops, speakers and resources designed to help expand and strengthen foreign language offerings in North Carolina schools. To view a program of the event in Raleigh, go to: [http://www.flanc.org/snippet\\_resources/files/FLANC%202009%20Conference%20Program%20Final%20for%20Website.pdf](http://www.flanc.org/snippet_resources/files/FLANC%202009%20Conference%20Program%20Final%20for%20Website.pdf).

### National Notes

"We have sought — in word and deed — a new era of engagement with the world. Now is the time for all of us to take our share of responsibility for a global response to global challenges," President Barack Obama told the United Nations General Assembly on September 23. He called for an era of global engagement to solve world issues from climate change to peacemaking. To read a full text of the speech, go to: <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/24/us/politics/24prexy.text.html?ref=world>.

More than \$2 million in U.S. Department of Education grants is heading to the Cumberland County Schools over the next five years to expand foreign language instruction. One grant is to establish and implement an articulated K-12 Mandarin Chinese curriculum. The second grant will be used to expand Spanish language instruction at the elementary, middle and high school level. To read more, go to: <http://www.ccs.k12.nc.us/09-10-HP-Articles/9.22.09ForeignLanguageAssitProgramGrants.htm>.



“North Carolina farmers desperately need new markets, and China is the largest potential customer in the world. China purchased \$271 million worth of North Carolina agricultural products in 2008, and there is still a huge amount of room for growth.”

**Steve Troxler, Commissioner**

**N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services**

### **This Is What It Looks Like:** Global Education at Work in NC

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#### **N.C. School Principals Embrace Study in China**

Principals and teachers from 12 North Carolina schools joined the expanding network of NC-China Partner Schools coordinated by the Center for International Understanding when they embarked on an educational journey to China’s Jiangsu Province this summer.

“Learning about China – its history and its modern-day impact – is essential for our schools to be able to work alongside their Chinese counterparts in these partnerships and, later, in the workplace,” said Shijun Naour, China Programs Coordinator at the Center.

The group spent time in Beijing, the capital of China, where they attended lectures at Beijing University, were honored at a reception in the Great Hall of the People, visited Tian’anmen Square, and climbed the Great Wall of China. Activity in China was sponsored by The College Board and Hanban, a non-governmental, nonprofit organization based in China with a mission to support teaching of Chinese language and culture.

Educators then traveled to Jiangsu Province, splitting up to spend several days with their new partner schools. They observed classes and developed partnership plans with their counterparts, including collaborative projects through the internet, and future student visits to each other’s schools.

Outcomes from the program can already be seen at Clayton Middle School in Johnston County. Principal Eddie Price was inspired to hire a Chinese language teacher, Ms. Liu Yao, and today 104 students are studying Chinese in this school of just around 750 students. The school has also developed a global technology course, which integrates language arts, social studies, international cultures, and technology.

“Our vision is to provide our students the best opportunity to be marketable in the 21st Century. Global awareness and the ability to communicate in Chinese is a great way of doing that,” Price said.

The larger school community has been very supportive of these global education efforts. Price commented, “Our parents have applauded our

efforts to give our students an advantage in the university selection process and in the work place.” For more information about the Center’s work with China, please contact Shijun Naour, China Programs Coordinator at [snaour@northcarolina.edu](mailto:snaour@northcarolina.edu).

## Progress Report: North Carolina in the World

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### **International School Partnerships**

News coverage about the Center for International Understanding’s NC-China Partner Schools appeared in several newspapers after a delegation of teachers and principals returned from a program in China in June. Apex High School Principal Matt Wight told The Apex Herald, “One of the most important things we do is try to make education relevant to our students. You talk to anyone in business now and ultimately they talk about how multinational things are. So I think for us as a school to establish a partnership with a school in China is only going to help prepare them for the real world.” To view the full story, go to:  
[http://www.theapexherald.com/pages/full\\_story/push?article-Students+receive+a+lesson+in+Chinese%20&id=3013746-Students+receive+a+lesson+in+Chinese&instance=secondary\\_stories\\_left\\_column](http://www.theapexherald.com/pages/full_story/push?article-Students+receive+a+lesson+in+Chinese%20&id=3013746-Students+receive+a+lesson+in+Chinese&instance=secondary_stories_left_column).

### **Teacher Knowledge**

“21st Century Skills for the Global Economy” is the theme of next month’s fall symposium on global education sponsored by World View. Michigan State University Professor Yong Zhao is a featured speaker at this conference for school- and college-based teams to increase international education across the curriculum. For more information, go to:  
<http://www.unc.edu/world/2009Symposium.htm>.

### **Teacher Knowledge**

Danish health care coverage includes on-site dental care for students in public schools; one principal says he spends just 3 hours per year dealing with discipline issues and parental concerns; and most everyone uses a bicycle for transportation. These are just some of the observations of a participant in the Center for International Understanding’s June program to Denmark. Paige Elliot, 2008-2009 Regional Teacher of the Year from Fuquay-Varina High School in Wake County, produced a colorful blog of her international experience. To read more, go to: <http://fvhselliott.pbworks.com/Denmark-2009>.



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