

GKEF June, 2003 Press Release



GKE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES THE RECIPIENTS OF THE GKEF/CLASS DIGITAL STARLIGHT AWARDS TO RECOGNIZE EXCELLENCE IN INTERNATIONAL, CHINESE LANGUAGE TEACHING PEDAGOGY

GKE FOUNDATION joins with CLASS (Chinese Language Association of Secondary-Elementary Schools) to recognize outstanding Chinese Language scholars and teachers. GKE (Global Knowledge Exchange) Foundation joins with CLASS to recognize the outstanding efforts and committed reach into innovative pedagogy achieved by outstanding Chinese teachers, who participated in the 2002 CLASS Summer Study Abroad Program.

Associated with that study abroad program, funded by a grant from the US Department of Education's Fulbright Hays Group Projects Abroad and the Freeman Foundation, standards-based curriculum teaching units for use in Chinese language classrooms in primary and secondary schools have been developed.

GKE Foundation and CLASS have joined to provide further dissemination and instructional development process of the curriculum teaching units and model lessons.

CLASS leaders have identified from the content materials submitted by the participants of the 2002 Summer Study Abroad Program and selected three most outstanding teaching units for CLASS/GKE Foundation Scholars in Innovation Digital Starlight Awards.

CLASS leaders have further screened the submitted materials and identified several CLASS/GKE Educators in Innovation Digital Starlight Awards winners and several teachers to receive Honorable Mentions.

Scholars in Digital Starlight Award

Grades K-4: April Song
George Jackson Elementary School, Jericho, NY

Grades 5-8: Yuanchao Meng
Oak Hill Middle School, Newton, MA

Grades 9-12: Jeannine Subisak
Columbus Academy, Gahanna, OH

Educators in Digital Starlight Award

(in alphabetical order by last name)

1. Julia Kessel, New Trier High School, Winnetka, IL
2. Winston Zai-Yang Li, Cate School, Carpinteria, CA
3. Adam Ross, Lakeside School, Seattle, WA
4. Heather Daly, Westborough Public Schools, Westborough, MA
5. Gwen Wang, Richard Montgomery High School, Rockville, MD
6. Yunian Zhang, West Potomac High School, Alexandria, VA

Honorable Mentions in Digital Starlight Award

(in alphabetical order by last name)

1. Grace Abel, Amherst Regional High School, Amherst, MA
2. Amy (Lih-Jiun) Chen-Tsuei, Thurgood Marshall Academic High School, San Francisco
3. Juliet Chu, Holmdel High/William Satz Middle School, Holmdel, NJ
4. Trevor Herndon, Westwood Elementary School, Memphis, TN
5. Yong Li, Academy of the Pacific Rim, Hide Park, MA
6. Ping Chung Kuo, Brooklyn Technical High School, Brooklyn, NY
7. Jean Seto, Convent of the Sacred Heart High School, San Francisco

The selection criteria highlighted the following areas:

- Modern, creative technology use
- Task-based, project activities rather than drill
- Proper Use of the Chinese language and culture
- Replicable strategies and extension opportunities
- Clarity in purpose and attention to standards
- Complete process of instruction

Teaching materials from the CLASS/GKE Foundation Innovation Digital Starlight Awards will be published onto CD-ROM with digital content and multimedia lessons. The complete set of teaching materials will be ready for dissemination upon request to interested primary and secondary school CLASS members by the summer of 2004. Further international development and collaborative brainstorming seminars to continue the instructional development and innovative learning processes are planned.

Unique and Customized Interactive GKE-sponsored Session for CLASS Board and GKEF Digital Starlight Educators

A two-day interactive GKE sponsored training session is planned on June 26 and 27 for the recipients of the Digital Starlight Awards and the CLASS Executive Board Members. The interaction will be focused on the GKE Innovation Process and award-winning, empowered learner projects led by Florence McGinn, United States National Tech&Learning Teacher of the Year and a former US Commissioner on Web-based Education for the Clinton administration.

Additionally, Florence McGinn will lead exploration of Hope Education Foundation opportunities, GKEF International Harmony Program opportunities, perspectives of the new, GKE Global Innovative Learning Center attached to Peking University, and collaborative penetration into key questions raised by Chinese educators during “GKE reaching deeper into international education issues” panel discussions held in Beijing.

Florence McGinn will lead collaborative, brainstorming sessions on new project opportunities and innovative educational extensions to the upcoming 2004, already awarded Fulbright Hays Group Studying Abroad funding.

For more information about GKE and GKE Foundation, you may visit the website at <http://www.gke.com> or at <http://www.gke.com/found.htm>.

For more information about CLASS, visit <http://www.classk12.org/>

For more information about the Hope Education Foundation, visit <http://hope-edu.org/>

For further information contact

*James Chang, President of the Board, GKE Foundation
CEO and Founder, GKE*

OR

Florence McGinn

Co-Director, GKE Foundation

Senior Executive Vice President, GKE

former United States Commissioner, Web-based Education Commission

United States National Tech&Learning Teacher, 1998

at Wayne, NJ office:

GKE, 155 Route 46, Wayne Interchange Plaza II

Wayne, New Jersey 07470-6831 USA

Telephone: 973 890 0010 OR 908 782 0894

Email: jchang@gke.com OR fmcginn@gke.com