Chinese Teacher Certification

VFTH

11/1/12

Students all over this area are getting to know, understand and experience the Chinese culture up close and personal.

In this week’s View from the Hill, Amy Bingham takes us inside Chinese class where some very enthusiastic teachers are making it possible.

Less than three years ago, WKU became the first Kentucky university to host a Confucius Institute. Today more than thirty Chinese teachers are in classrooms here in the commonwealth and more than half recently received their Kentucky teacher certification.

If this tune sounds familiar…it’s no wonder. Head, shoulders, knees and toes in Chinese.

 “I want to make them outstanding by learning Chinese to be international and to help them to know more about Chinese culture.”

Miss Vivien, as she is known at Franklin Simpson High School, is doing just that. She is one of 33 Chinese teachers spending the year here in Kentucky through WKU’s Confucious Institute.

We’re in a global society now and so having our kids understand that and embrace what that means adds so much to that.”

Seventeen of the CI teachers- including Miss Jessie at Franklin Simpson Middle School -recently received their Kentucky teacher certification.

 “I’m so excited and so happy.”

 “It’s a tough time for all of us. We prepare for this certificate from April and to now we get this certification…it’s about six months I think.”

For Vivien, the recognition was even more emotional. She left behind her 18-month old daughter to come to America for a year.

 “I’m so proud of myself and I’m so proud of my daughter and my husband. He encouraged me to come here to teach and he would take very good care of my daughter Veronica.”

 “They put in a lot of hard work to achieve certification here in Kentucky and we are very, very proud of them.”

Eight thousand Kentucky students from grades K through 16 are expected to be impacted by CI teachers in the coming year.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

##