U.S. Confucius Institute Conference

VFTH

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WKU recently had the honor of hosting the very first U.S. meeting of United States Confucius Institutes.

Amy Bingham has some highlights in this week’s View from the Hill.

Confucius Institutes are dedicated to the teaching of Chinese language and culture. There are more than 400 worldwide with 97 of those in the United States. WKU’s CI has only been around for three years but has quickly gained lots of attention for it’s success.

“We’re delighted to be your host in Bowling Green Ky.”

The joint meeting of the U.S. CI’s was supposed to be held at the University of Hawaii, but the venue fell through just six weeks ago…that’s when WKU was asked to host.

“Pres. Gary immediately says no problem. Come, so I come.”

For Madame Xu Lin, Chief Executive of Confucius Headquarters, it was a chance to visit the university that awarded her an honorary degree in 2011.

“Before I arrived I thought ok must be a very good university, but when I see I say very good university.

Before the conference began, Xu Lin was treated to some special performances by local students in WKU’s Chinese Learning Center.

She also met with some of Kentucky’s Volunteer Teachers , ten of whom were later awarded plaques noting their Kentucky Teacher Certification.

“American people want to know Chinese culture and language from heart.”

Xu Lin got to experience by big part of ‘American’ culture when she participated in the coin toss prior to the WKU/Navy football game.

“Really touched my heart, I like it here, I like the people, I like the environment.

260 delegates from more than 90 Universities attended the conference. Confucius Institutes were first established in 2004.

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

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