

Chinese Educators Pass Along Technological Skills learned at NTID

For the first time since its inception a year ago, the goals of the Postsecondary Education Network (PEN)-International came full circle. A group of Chinese educators taught colleagues from other regional colleges in China the technological skills they learned from in-depth training at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) at Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, NY.

During a recent workshop at Tianjin University of Technology (TUT), in China, four faculty members from TUT, where PEN-International established a high-technology multimedia lab last year, shared their expertise with more than 25 faculty members and administrators representing upper secondary and post-secondary settings from 18 regions of China.

"This visit was particularly meaningful as the faculty members from TUT have now become 'exporters' of the technology they learned from us," said PEN-International director James DeCaro. "One of our goals is to share educational and technological expertise with educators worldwide and then have them move from being 'importers' of the knowledge to being self-sufficient teach-

ers. Our TUT colleagues now have become the exporters."

PEN-International is a multilateral international effort to network colleges and universities that educate people who are deaf. The organization is funded in large part by a grant to NTID from the Nippon Foundation of Japan.

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-James DeCaro

The PEN agenda during the China visit also included the first Sino-American videoconference on deafness. The session, titled "How to Facilitate Classroom Communication," was conducted via videoconference from the United States by NTID associate professor Sidney Barefoot.

"This was a superb use of the TUT PEN-International Multimedia Lab," said Bao Guodong, director of the TUT College for the Deaf. "We will now use the lab extensively for these videoconferences with NTID and other PEN-International institutions."

A secondary focus of the visit was the ini-

tiation of a long-term research project by PEN-International research consultant Patricia Mudgett-DeCaro, an adjunct faculty member at NTID. The project will focus on the history of post-secondary deaf education in China, its current status, and future projections about its place in the Chinese educational system. Mudgett-DeCaro and

PEN-International research associate Yufang Liu interviewed 15 educational leaders during their visit to TUT.

PEN-International uses innovative educational and information technologies, faculty training and development strategies to help improve the post-secondary education of people who are deaf worldwide. Over the next several years PEN-International expects to be working in at least six countries.

For more information:

Postsecondary Educational Network-International, online: www.pen.ntid.rit.edu