

## ***Moistens all things softly without sound* – A distinguished Special Higher Education for the Deaf**

Interview Report with Bao Guodong, president of Tianjin Technical College for the Deaf of Tianjin University of Technology

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Translated by Olivia Liu

This is not a fairyland. This is a place that magnetically attracts deaf youth from all over the country, where deaf students can achieve their dreams. This is the Tianjin Technical College for the Deaf of Tianjin University of Technology, a place where deaf students can soar freely with their wings widely open like eaglets flying in the sky. Here is an educational dreamland for the deaf, where they learn and improve moral, physiological, intellectual and psychological quality of life.

*The good rain knows its season, when spring arrives, then it comes. It follows the wind secretly into the night, and moistens all things softly, without sound.– by Poet Du Fu*

The reporters have come to realize how important deaf education is to deaf youth after they entered into the silent palace among the lovely deaf youth and listened to them. Deaf youth told the reporters vividly about their dreams and stories that interweaved with sweat and tears and their need for equality and integration. Through these young people's eyes, reporter saw the longing for a success and a bright future. All of these truly moved the reporters. Teachers in Tianjin Technical College for the Deaf are the key persons responsible for these youth's education. They are the engineers for these younger souls, guiding the direction and exploring the bright future for this new generation of deaf university students. What great jobs the teachers in this special college have done! During the conversation with reporters, the president of the college Mr. Bao Guodong saying repeatedly with humility: "I have done nothing. It is because we have a group of good teachers and they have trained a group of good students. I am so proud of them." From our conversation with Mr. Bao, we see passion, dedication, and

love of deaf youth. We also see the characteristics of a higher level of well-educated professionals have: persistence, intelligence, and trustfulness. President Bao mentioned the development history of the Tianjin Technical College for the Deaf and reviewed it with emotion like enumerating his family history. In 1997, with the support of Tianjin University of Technology, The Association for the Handicapped signed a cooperative agreement with Tianjin city to establish the first technical college for the deaf in our country. Over the years it has developed into a well recommended comprehensive system in special higher education for the Deaf from many aspects, especially for its unique college management and planning, structure of the team of teachers, and the direction of college development.

### **Shaping Talent with Innovation**

Tianjin Technical College for the Deaf persists in an open policy towards college planning and management and promotes international education concepts. Being able to be creative and open minded in school planning and management, Tianjin Technical College for the Deaf has developed a unique model for running the school. President Bao described:

“We adopted the school model of combining independence and openness to the college planning and management. We implemented a “separated but not isolated” system policy for the deaf college students. On one hand, Tianjin Technical College for the Deaf is an independent college of the institute. It has its own management team and management structure. Classes are grouped separately and lecture activities are separated (from hearing students). Special tools and approaches are being applied in the deaf classroom. On the other hand, Tianjin Technical College for the Deaf still is one of the colleges under Tianjin University of Technology. The deaf college is located inside the university, and classes are held within the same lecture building as other colleges. Deaf students share the same resources of the university and join in student events and activities with hearing students. The advantages of this model are: First, as a part of the Tianjin University of Technology, a major university in the country, Tianjin Technical College for the Deaf has all the quality resources such as equipment and experienced lecturers, these helps to define the college quality. Second, it adapts deaf culture, accommodates the special needs of the deaf students, and helps deaf students to live among the mainstream of hearing students. Third, deaf students’ determination and persistence to succeed can also influence and motivate students and teachers from the other

colleges. Fourth, this college structure expresses the standard academic requirement to deaf students, discourages the dependent mentality such as the need of special accommodation and support, and helps deaf student develop self-esteem and self analysis. This structure is very different from the commonly used isolation systems in our country which has provided special education school or has a few deaf students to study in the mainstream class. The new college model has been well accepted and highly rated and appraised by deaf students, parents, hiring companies, international deaf associations, and China Disabled Persons' Federation. Good results are achieved. ”

This is an innovation for the school management which allows deaf students to blend into the mainstream in society and communities, and to develop and grow up healthy, both physically and mentally. In such an open environment, hard working and persistent deaf college students have demonstrated a new image of the modern deaf college student and showed the “Continued to succeed, to reach to the higher level” combatant spirits by overcoming many unimaginable difficulties and received their certifications in English and computer qualification exams. Accordingly to the education development strategy, the college has enhanced the deaf student program by providing vocational and technical training to college graduate courses, and has set a goal to train the deaf students to become qualified and skilled persons who have adequate professional training and education as well as a hands-on ability in actual operation.

For this reason, the college modified its programs based on the needs of the workforce, added two programs: Applying Computer program and Fashion Design and Production program. Undergraduate courses and degrees were established in 2001. Under the programs and the effort of the development strategy, outstanding deaf students have created miracles with their persistence toward success. Their fashion designs and fashion modeling performances almost reach professional levels. Their handicraft calligraphy and sculpture art pieces reached to a higher level and achieved high appraisal. This is the effort to implement the concept of “Integrated Quality Education both Inside and Outside the Classroom“. It encourages and cultivates comprehensive development in the areas of moral, ideological, physiological, psychological and intellectual qualities. It helps to cast solid foundation for deaf students to succeed in the mainstream society in the future.

### **Teacher's Lofty Admirable Spirit**

Teaching is a kind of service whereas education is a kind of commitment. Like the fertile earth to nourish the buds in spring season, all teachers give up material gain and dedicate their efforts to students' success. Besides learning sign language, they also need to concentrate on understanding the psychological characteristics of deaf students.

The teachers here always considered deaf students their children and treat them with patience, love and dedication. President Bao mentioned, "I am very delighted that we have a noble professional proficient team of teachers full of love, patience, devotion, keenness, and thoughtfulness. Teachers always give students immediate attention and help students who have difficulties in school or daily life. Teachers squeeze their time to help students with learning problems. Sometimes a teacher takes a non-local student home for holidays when the student could not go home for some reasons. Sometimes teachers give up their vacation days for students who need after class tutoring. Teachers' positive work ethic and good personalities have gradually influenced and motivated every student. Teachers here have projected a positive teacher's image with their hard work, thoughtfulness, love and passion. Currently, the research atmosphere among the young teacher-team in the Technical College for the Deaf is very active. To enhance their qualifications and to receive stronger foundation in college teaching, young teachers who haven't received their Master's degrees are all currently enrolling in Master's programs.

### **Step Forward into the Brilliant Dynasty**

*"A thousand miles journey initiates and accumulates with single steps, water flows from thousands of streams gradually form an ocean" – Chinese Proverb*

With a good public reputation in being open-minded in reforming the college planning management, President Bao and the deaf college have graduated more than three-hundred deaf college students, and these students are currently working all over the country. Talented and hard working, many of the deaf students have made great contributions to the society. Additionally there are more than 50 percent of the college students actively applying to join the Communist Party in the last four years, and twenty of them have been accepted to the Communist Party. Many students have passed an America company Autodesk's AutoCAD certification exam; eighteen out of the twenty-one graduates of year of 2001 acquired the certification. Some students have passed levels 2 and 3 English exams. Twenty-four times students have received the "De-Min Talented Student" award given by the China Disabled Person's Federal. Two of them received a first place award. In 2000, Student Wang Feng achieved Tianjin City's Wang Ke Chang Special Fellowship. He is the first college student recipient of this award. Students in Tianjin Technical College for the Deaf are well accepted by the public, by people in China and around the world.

To acquire more experience in teaching the deaf, Tianjin Technical College for the Deaf also emphasizes the international exchange of educational practices and expertise. In the past few years, Tianjin Technical College for the Deaf has established a strong and friendly relationship with two famous colleges for the deaf, The National Technical Institute for the Deaf in the USA and Sukuba College of Technology in Japan. Funded by The Nippon Foundation of Japan, Tianjin Technical College for the Deaf and the above universities initiated and established The Postsecondary Education Network - International (PEN-International Project). Under the support of this project, Tianjin Technical College for the Deaf has acquired a multimedia equipped classroom and distance learning technology. The project program also subsidized 15 young teachers to receive training in the U.S.A. regarding deaf education theories and advanced teaching methods. The program also sent many teachers and deaf students to visit Japan and the U.S.A., and allowed our college to host receptions for delegations of deaf students and teachers from all over the world. Direct exchange between deaf students and deaf universities has been realized. In the year 2003, President Bao Guodong, the director of PEN – International in China, expanded this cooperation program to two other colleges that recently accepted deaf students in China. The two colleges are the College of Special Education in

Beijing Union University and the College of Special Education of Changchun University. Project funds were introduced to help these two colleges setup online distance learning systems. The PEN-International project which is currently made up of four colleges for the Deaf from the United States, Japan, Russia and China, are now actively developing an international deaf education network. The implementation of this network will raise the deaf higher education in engineering in our country to a higher level.

With years of experience in college planning and management and a great interest in teaching related research, Tianjin Technical College for the Deaf has developed an approach to educate and train deaf college students in an engineering institute. Many research papers have been published in domestic and foreign academic journals. The book Professional Sign Language for Computer Science, about to be released, has filled the gap that existed in the field of computer professional vocabulary in sign language in our country. In the year 2000, The Tianjin Technical College for the Deaf was certified for the Meritorious Service Advanced Organization under the "Ninth Five Year Plan". In February 2001, the college was awarded the title of "Civilized College" by the municipal government. In November of 2001, a paper supervised by Professor Bao Guodong, "Establishing a distinguished higher education in Engineering for the Deaf", won first prize in Tianjin city for "Outstanding Teaching Achievement in Higher Education". This paper also won a second national prize for "Outstanding Teaching Achievement of Higher Education" award.

Currently, Professor Bao Guodong is leading several science research projects in education. Some of them have been categorized as primary topics in the national and provincial educational programs. In year of 2002, Mr. Bao received "The National Teaching Ethic Advanced Individual Award" by the national educational labor union. In 2001, he received "The Outstanding Person for the Disabled Award" from Tianjin city, and in the same year, Tianjin teacher association conferred "The Outstanding Party Member Award" on him. On April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004, he was elected deputy secretary of the China Deaflympics. Mr. Bao and his team have made great contributions to the education of deaf college students, especially in the higher special education for the disabled. These important outcomes would not have been possible without supports from the upper level management team and the acceptance of society.

# 中国改革潮

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# 润物细无声的聋人 特色教育

——访天津市理工学院聋人工学院院长 鲍国东



院长 鲍国东

这里不是仙境，却有神奇的力量把沉浮在梦中的学子唤醒；这里不是磁场，却有一种引力把四面八方的聋孩子凝聚，这里是育德、育智、育善、育美的家园，是雏鹰起飞的池塘，她让每个学子敞开心扉展翅翱翔，这里正是——天津理工学院聋人工学院。

“好雨知时节，润物细无声”。当记者走进这无声的殿堂，走进可爱的聋孩子中间，听着他们那一段段用汗水、泪水交织出来的金色梦想曲，憧憬着美好的未来；看到他们那一双双渴望平等、融入、成功的期盼目光，让人感到心灵的震撼，责任的重大。同时也深深地感到聋人工学院的教师是多么的伟大，他们是人类灵魂的工程师，造就了新一代聋人大学生

的未来。在记者和鲍国东院长交流时，他一再讲：我没做什么，是我们有一批好教师，培养了一批好学生，我为他们而自豪。这是我从鲍院长的身上看到的一种激情，一种对教育的执着，对聋孩子那深深的爱。在他身上展现了中国知识分子的儒家风采，博学睿智、才思敏捷、为人真诚、追求卓越的精神。鲍院长谈起聋人工学院的发展感慨万分，如数家珍，娓娓道来。

1997年中残联和天津市政府签定合作协议，以天津理工学院为依托，联合创办了我国第一所聋人工学院。经过多年的风风雨雨，学院在办学思想、办学模式、办学特色、教师队伍建设等方面，探索了一条聋人特殊教育办学之路，值得深思和提倡。

## 一、模式创新铸人才

聋人工学院始终坚持开放性办学，进行国际化大教育观的教育，他们以创新的思路，开放的视角，创出了天津聋人工学院的办学模式和特色。据鲍院长介绍“我们采取了单独办学和开放办学相结合的模式，对聋人大学生实施‘隔而不离’的做法。一方面，独立组建聋人工学院，有单独的领导体系、组织机构，单独编班教学，单独开展教学活动，运用特殊的手段和方法施教。另一方面，聋人工学院是天津理工学院下属的一个二级学院。办学地点在校内，和学校的其

他学院同在一座教学大楼里上课，他们与其他大学生一同参加学校的各种统一活动，资源共享。这种模式有四点好处：首先，聋人工学院依托天津理工学院这样一所重点大学，可以实现现在师资、设备等各方面资源共享，提高办学水平。其次，适应聋人大学生的特点，照顾了他们的特殊要求，又将聋人大学生的日常生活完全融入健听人大学生之中。第三，聋人大学生自强不息的精神也教育校内的全体师生。第四，这种体制体现了对聋人大学生的统一要求，克服了要求特殊照顾的依赖思想，能正确认识自我。这种体制区别于我国比较普遍采用的单独组建特教学校，也不同于随班就读，这一体制在实践中收到良好效果，受到聋人大学生、学生家长、用人单位及国际聋人联合会和中残联的高度评价。”这是一种模式的创新，让这些有残疾的学生和正常人一样，融入社会和集体回归主流，使他们的身心健康发展。

这些聋人大学生，在开放的大环境中，以顽强的拼搏精神学习，在计算机、英语的考级中，付出了常人难以想像的困难拿到资格证书。体现了聋哑学生“自强不息，永攀高峰”的拼搏精神，展现了现代聋人大学生的风采。学院根据培养的目标，把对聋人的大学教育从专科层次的职业技术教育发展到大学本科教育，把培养聋人大学生的目标定位为培养有一定的专业理论基础，能够从事应用技术工



美国国家聋联人工学院(NTID)院长达维拉教授访问我院

作的有一定专业水平的技术人才。所以,学院在专业设置上,根据市场的需求随时调整,增设了计算机应用专业、服装设计与制作专业,2001年设置了大学本科专业。在专业的学习与实践中,学生们以优异的成绩,创造了一个个奇迹。他们的服装设计和模特表演简直达到了专业水平,他们的工艺品制作和书法雕刻达到了更高水平,让人们赞叹不已。这是在教育教学中形成的“课内外一体化素质教育体系”实践的结果,培养了学生德、智、体、美全面发展,为学生走向社会打下了人生成功的良好积淀。

## 二、崇高境界铸师魂

教育是一种服务,教育是一种承诺;用赏识的目光看待每一位学生。这里的每位教师都甘为泥土育春花,擦去的是功利,举起的是学生,奉献的是自己。每位教师不但学会手语,还要潜心钻研聋人大学生的心理特点,

把学生当作自己的孩子,充满耐心、爱心和事业心。正像鲍院长所讲:“我非常欣慰有一支师德高尚、业务精湛、充满爱心、恒心、善心、诚心的教师队伍。在平时的学习生活中,只要一个学生需要,老师就立刻出现在学生面前。对学习有困难的同学,教师利用一切时间帮助补习。外地大学生逢年过节有的回不了家,老师就把学生接到家里,有些教师利用公休日给学生补课。他们在用自己的师德和人性潜移默化地影响着学生,用一颗爱心和赏识的目光看待每一位学

生,他们用爱心跋涉铸造了师魂。现在聋人工学院教师中形成了良好的学习氛围,青年教师中未取得硕士学位的都在读研究生,提高自我素质,为搞好本科教育打下良好的基础。

## 三、与时俱进铸辉煌

“不积跬步无以致千里;不积细流无以成江海。”鲍院长和他的学院在改革、创新、开放的办学中以良好的形象展示于社会,先后输送300多名大学生在祖国各地,他们当中有各类人才,为社会做出了贡献。尤其在近四年的100多名毕业生中50%以上学生积极申请入党,20人光荣成为共产党员。许多学生通过美国Autodesk公司AutoCAD软件操作认证考核,其中2000年毕业的21人中有18人取得该项操作证书,有一部分学生通过英语二、三级考试。先后有24人次荣获中残联颁发的“德敏学习成才奖”,其中2人获得一等奖。2000年李峰同学获天津市王克昌特等奖学金,成为全市惟一一位获此奖的专科学生。天津理工学院聋人工学院的学生在中国、在世界、在老百姓的心中得到认可。

聋人工学院在办学中注重国际交流以汲取先进经验。几年来,聋人工学院与美国国家聋联人工学院(NTID)、日本筑波短期技术大学(TCT)等国际著名的特殊教育学院建立了良好的校际关系,并在日本世川财团的资助下与这几所院校共同发起成立了国际聋人高等教育网络组织(PEN-International项目)。在PEN项目的帮助下,聋人工学院已建成聋人专用多媒体教室及远程会议系统,先后选送了15名青年教师在美国接受聋人教育理论与先进教育技术的培训,几十名师生访问日本、美国,并多次接待了日、美聋人师生的访问交流,实现不同国家聋人大学生之间直接交流。担任国际聋人教育网络中方负责人的鲍国东院长

在2003年又将这一项目扩展到有聋人大学生读书的北京联合大学特殊教育学院、长春大学特殊教育学院,并引入项目资金帮助这两所招收聋人的特教学院分别建立远程视频即远程教学系统。由中、美、日、俄四国聋人工学院合作开展的国际聋人远程高等教育网络系统正在积极建设中,这一系统的建立将使我国聋人高等工科教育跨入国际先进行列。

聋人工学院通过多年的办学经验和浓厚的科研学风,形成总结了一套工科院校培养聋人大学生的经验,先后各类学术刊物上发表论文几十篇。即将出版的《计算机专业手语》一书填补了我国计算机专业词汇手语的空白。2000年,聋人工学院被授予“九五”立功先进单位,2001年2月被市政府授予《文明学校》称号,2001年11月鲍国东教授主持的教学成果《创办有特色的聋人高等工科教育》获天津市高等教育优秀教学成果一等奖,同时获国家级优秀教学成果二等奖。

鲍国东教授主持多项教育科学研究课题,其中全国教育规划重点课题及省部级课题多项,2002年被全国教育工会授予全国师德先进个人,2001年天津市政府授予优秀残疾人工作者,2001年天津市教卫工委授予优秀共产党员,2004年4月1日又当选为中国聋奥会副秘书长。这些成绩的取得是他们在特教战线上为国家教育做出的特殊贡献,是上级领导的支持和社会的认可。

