Faculty Report (Summer 2011)

Name: Minjuan Wang
Faculty/Rank: Associate Professors
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College: Education
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Proposal title: Coordinating a Summer Service Learning Program at Rural Schools in China
Countries visited: P. R. China
Institution visited: Tsinghua University
Dates of travel: July 18-27, 2011
Number of student participants: 1

Previous IP proposals submitted and grants awarded
(list titles, countries and dates):

Establishing Internships and Joint Degree Programs
--between SDSU and Beijing Normal University (in Educational Technology), Summer 2005
Establishing Internships and Joint Degree Programs
--between SDSU, BNU, and Shanghai Jiaotong University, Summer 2006
Developing Summer Service Learning program at Schools in China
--Summer 2010

Have all required reports been submitted? Yes.

Other funding for this activity available/applied for: None
Proposal Abstract (75 word maximum):

The proposed project will bring Educational Technology students (k-12 teachers) to China, to participate in an influential summer service learning program sponsored by the Peter Wang Foundation. SDSU students will team up with students from Tsinghua University (Beijing), to work at a few schools in rural
areas of China. The short-term goal of this project is to provide international work/learning experiences for M.A. students in SDSU’s Educational Technology; and the long-term goal is to develop a credit-bearing service learning program, which can involve graduate students from other education-related disciplines.

**Travel report:**

I. **Opening/overview of intentions/activity**

   Studying or working abroad is on the wish list of many EDTEC students. To participate in a service learning program seems a right approach for further developing curriculum-related international activities for our students (especially K-12 teachers).

   For the past three years, the Peter Wang Foundation has been supporting a service learning program at rural schools in China, administered by Tsinghua University (Beijing). This program brings teams of American and Chinese students to schools associated with Tsinghua’s e-Learning centers, where they help teachers and students with their English. And I proposed to work with this Foundation and Tsinghua University, to open up this program to graduate students at SDSU.

   Last year, I met with the service learning office in Tsinghua University and they agreed to expand this program to other high-needs areas, including: course design, software training, and even computer maintenance. This year, I began to recruit students for this program.

II. **In preparation for the trip abroad**

   - I contacted the Poverty Alleviation Program Center at Tsinghua University, explaining this project and setting up a meeting for Summer 2011.

   - I consulted with the program coordinator at SDSU side to get her support. She liked my idea and asked me to help recruit SDSU students for summer 2011. I distributed the information to College of Education, mostly to teacher education and educational technology students. Two students (Jessica and John) showed interests and but they wanted to teach for a longer term (3-6 months) in China.

III. **Upon arrival/specific activity**

   Following is a brief description of my activities in China.

   **Summer 2011—Visit to Tsing Hua University**

   I met with the Center Director (Ms. Huang), and program director (Mr. Liang). We debriefed the program this summer. Eleven SDSU students participated in this program, with 10 going through CES summer course. The program went very well and most students greatly enjoyed this invaluable experience. We then discussed about placing students for long-term teaching. Ms. Huang and Mr. Liang happily embraced this suggestion. We looked at all the teaching centers and identified a few that have better living and teaching conditions.
Other exchange activities that were not included in the grant proposal

**July 19** met with School of Educational Technology, Beijing Normal University
Agenda: discuss the launching of collaborative work on the translation of the Encyclopedia of Educational Technology (involving students). This Encyclopedia is online and is edited by Dr. Bob Hoffman from SDSU.

**July 20** conference call with Professor Peng, Wanglu (Dean of College of Information Science and engineering), Beijing Normal University
Agenda: Establish joint-degree programs with SDSU’s computer science. Dean Peng visited SDSU during the week of August 15, and met with Dr. Leland Beck and Tarokh, Computer Science.

**July 22** Met with professor Fang, Haiguang, educational technology, Beijing Capital University
Agenda: faculty visit, student internships

**July 25** Met with LearnClub, a New association for higher education and corporations in China, focusing on international exchanges. Contact: Mr. Yanjun Fu
Agenda: agreement for me to serve on their Board of directors. And helped to plan their November visit to the U.S., including a visit to San Diego on Nov. 7. More: [http://learnclub.org/2011/0727/232.html](http://learnclub.org/2011/0727/232.html)

IV. **Conclusion, recommendation, and next step**

I will be actively following up with all institutions involved and also seek more extramural funds from the U.S., to better support this service learning program.

SDSU’s Educational Technology Department provides opportunities for students to participate in internships, working for real clients. Students with flexible schedules will definitely be interested in these exciting work opportunities abroad.

In addition, SDSU’s College of Education is going to make study-abroad a requirement for most graduate programs. A large number of our students are becoming school teachers. The project I undertook, even though will involve a small number of student teachers (3-4/year), can probably serve as a model for sending pre-service teachers abroad.