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Sino Language Gateway Melds Community Service and Leadership through Cultural Immersion



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Students develop leadership skills and serve the Chinese local community through Sino Language Gateway Leadership and Community Service program

San Jose, CA (PRWEB) October 24, 2012

Sino Language Gateway (SLG), one of the pioneers in providing cultural study abroad programs to youth, concluded its summer of 2012 by successfully combining cultural learning with community service and leadership training for the benefit of hundreds of children and youth.

Of the five groups that ventured to China with SLG this summer, two were with the [Leadership and Community Service program](#). A slight deviation from the traditional cultural learning and immersion programs that SLG is known for, the leadership program was designed to expand one's worldview and help students gain 80 hours of community service while at the same time learning Chinese and building new friendships. While being immersed in Chinese language and lifestyle, the students in turn taught English to the local Chinese children.

The SLG objectives to equip students with the skills to serve their community as well as

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gain an understanding about Chinese culture and language were well achieved as the youth traveled from different states in the U.S. and Canada and joined together in China to teach classes of Chinese kids. They were challenged to immediately begin working together and prepare their own teaching plan, delegate roles within the team and present the lessons. The teaching experienced involved in-depth brainstorming, effective discussion, research and public speaking skills that required a tremendous amount of organization and team cooperation.

Marketing Director of SLG, [Anna Yu](#), said, "Most of our participants not only presented their lessons in an informed and pleasant manner, but also were able to effectively manage their classes and inspire the Chinese kids to learn."

The execution of the youth-led classes was made with the immense and devoted support of the SLG staff. Certified and experienced SLG teachers spent one month of training prior to the program providing the teenagers with key resources and valuable teaching techniques. The perfect blend of community service and leadership training fixed in a cultural setting not only gave SLG students an avenue to serve and learn, but also helped prepare them for life beyond high school.

[Amy Diep](#), a current college student who had joined Sino for two summers and then return as a counselor helping other kids, said that "Sino was a big part of my life, and the experience really prepared me for college. I am now fluent in speaking and reading Mandarin. I would have never been able to come this far without the motivation Sino has given me."

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