

# The First National Chinese Language Conference Held in D.C. 首次全美中文大會在華府舉行

The National Chinese Language Conference was held in Washington, DC, April 17-19, 2008. Nearly 750 participants traveled from 44 states and seven countries, and they included policymakers, school board members, state or local education administrators, school principals and teachers, university faculty and parents.

The conference was hosted by the Asia Society and the College Board, with numerous sponsors such as the Office of Chinese Language Council International (Hanban), National Foreign Language Center, and Chinese Language Flagship Programs. It was the first large-scale national meeting of U.S. education leaders to promote Chinese language education and global competence among U.S. students.

Ohio and The Ohio State University attracted special attention at the conference. First, the OSU President Gordon Gee and ODE Superintendent Susan Zelman delivered speeches at plenary sessions. Then, Eric Shepherd, professor of Chinese and graduate from OSU, staged professional performances of Chinese storytelling

The conference session topics covered almost every aspect related to Chinese language and culture education, ranging from curriculum development to licensure and development of qualified teachers. Presentations of many of the speakers and panelists are posted online at <http://askasia.org/chinese>. The second National



**National Chinese Language Conference**  
April 17-19, 2008  
Washington, D.C.

Chinese Language Conference is planned to be held around the same time next year in Chicago. (Report by KS and photos by Grace Norman.)

(Captions to the photos)

1. President Gordon Gee of the Ohio State University
2. Dr. Susan Zelman, ODE Superintendent of Public Instruction
3. Eric Shepherd performing Shandong Kuaishu
4. Audience of the National Chinese Language Conference



(Shandong Kuaishu) that brought loud applause from the audience. Presented at the conference were Galal Walker and Kun Shi of the OSU Chinese Flagship Program, and the ODE World Language Consultants Debbie Robinson and Ryan Wertz.



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