



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Chris Beaman

Manager of Marketing and Communications

800.284.3167

chris@kdp.org

KAPPA DELTA PI TO HOST CHINESE PRINCIPALS

(INDIANAPOLIS)—Twenty-eight Chinese high school principals will end their American vacation and begin their professional development at Kappa Delta Pi (KDP) beginning Friday, October 2, 2015. After several days in Washington, D.C. and New York City, the educators are coming to Indiana to work. In cooperation with the Chinese Education Connection (CEC), KDP staff and educators from several central Indiana schools will introduce the Chinese to the American public education system, which substantially differs from their own. KDP and CEC have learned through previous experiences with groups of principals that there will be several surprises are in store for the Huzhou, Zhejiang Province, school executives.

On Friday, administrators from Avon Community Schools will present information on the structure and operation of American public schools districts, on teacher evaluation and supervision, and on the complex system of school financing. Next week, the Chinese will tour schools in Plainfield, Batesville, Shelbyville, Zionsville, and MSD Washington Township. In each location, they will have the opportunity to interact with students, teachers, and administrators. Past groups of Chinese principals have been amazed by:

- The degree of autonomous operation within school districts and individual schools;
- The interpersonal relationships between adults and students within the schools;
- The school bus transportation system;
- Activity classes in technology, art, music, and physical education; and
- The energy, independence, and confidence of American students.

The contrast with Chinese schools is stark: principals almost never interact with students, pupils are expected to remain quiet and submissive at all times, and students walk or take public transportation to school. The Chinese are always very interested in how American educators encourage cooperation, creativity, and confidence in their schools.

This group of principals is the first of three delegations coming to Indianapolis this fall. An Indiana delegation of teachers and administrators is leaving for China later this month. These exchanges are organized by CEC, which specializes in professional development for educators, both American and Chinese.

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About Kappa Delta Pi

Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education, is a 501 (c) (3) organization established in 1911 to recognize and promote excellence in education, provide a reasoned voice for significant issues, and link learning communities of educators. Through its programs, services, and strategic partnerships, KDP supports the professional growth and teaching practices of educators throughout all phases and levels of their careers. The organization currently has more than 600 chapters and an active membership of nearly 40,000 worldwide.