



## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

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### **BCIU's Asian Studies Collaborative Hosts "East Asia Day" at Penn Museum July 15**

READING, PA – Young people entering grades 5-8 and their parents who are interested in learning more about East Asian languages and cultures will enjoy "East Asia Day," a day-long trip July 15 to the Penn Museum hosted by the Berks County Intermediate Unit's Asian Studies Collaborative (ASC) and the University of Pennsylvania Center for East Asian Studies.

Participants will travel to the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology in Philadelphia where they will receive a private tour of some of the museum's artifacts from Korea, India, and China, particularly the Chinese Rotunda, which, at 90 feet high, is one of the largest unsupported masonry domes in the world and the home of large-scale Chinese artifacts.

A guest lecturer will discuss why learning about East Asian cultures and languages – particularly Mandarin Chinese – is important for today's young people (hint: it has to do with America remaining competitive in a global economy). Participants also will have the opportunity to learn Chinese calligraphy and symbols, or the Japanese art of paper folding known as origami.

Cost is \$15 for adults, \$10 for students, and includes transportation and lunch. The day begins at the BCIU's administration building, 1111 Commons Boulevard, Reading, at 8 a.m. and ends at 4:45 p.m.

**The registration deadline is July 10.** To register, contact Lori Gerber at 610-987-8421 or at [lorg@berksiu.org](mailto:lorg@berksiu.org). For more information on the East Asia Day activities, contact Sue Calvin at 610-987-8639 or at [suecal@berksiu.org](mailto:suecal@berksiu.org).

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The BCIU's Asian Studies Collaborative works to strengthen East Asian language and culture in grades K-12 and assists Pennsylvania school districts that offer, or are thinking of offering, Chinese studies. The goal is that the ASC will become a model for the creation of Chinese language and cultural studies programs and resources at school districts throughout the state.

Created in fall 2008, the ASC already has:

- Hosted a 10-week seminar, "East Asia: A Seminar for Teachers," that provided an introduction to Asian culture and society and allowed participants to discuss various ideas about how to integrate the study of East Asia into the secondary school curriculum.
- Coordinated the Asian Studies Collaborative Spring Conference for educators and school administrators, where they learned how to add the study of Asian languages and culture to their school's curricula.

In the works for the remainder of 2009:

- Dr. Bonita Troxell, director of the Office of Professional Development and Curriculum, will travel to China June 22-30 with the College Board's Chinese Bridge Delegation to explore sister school agreements with Chinese schools.
- Two teachers from China will arrive in Berks County in late July to serve as Chinese teachers at Wilson and Twin Valley high schools. Their arrival will enhance the Chinese language programs already offered at the schools.

For more information on the Asian Studies Collaborative, contact Dr. Troxell at 610-987-8422 or via e-mail at [bontro@berksiu.org](mailto:bontro@berksiu.org).

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