



For Immediate Release

Contact: Greta Nagel
nagel@motal.org
714-814-4221

CHINESE AND AMERICAN EDUCATION TOPIC OF PRESENTATION

March 21 event to benefit Museum of Teaching and Learning's new exhibition

Fullerton, California – March 4, 2014 – The award-winning Museum of Teaching and Learning (MOTAL) has invited Rick Harrington to speak on Friday, March 21, at 6 p.m. in the Newport Beach/Costa Mesa area as part of a fund-raising event for the development of a new exhibition that compares American and Chinese classroom education. A recent transplant from the East Coast where he was a noted educator in the gifted and talented arena, Harrington holds a B.A. in Chinese literature from Yale University and an Ed.M. from SUNY Buffalo in comparative education. He now manages projects for visiting Chinese educators at Cal State Fullerton while he completes his Ph.D. in comparative education at Claremont Graduate University. In “A Peek at American Schools Through the Eyes of Chinese Teachers,” Rick will discuss the strengths of both educational systems and how educators in the two countries can learn from each other.

As American educators are increasingly urged to focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), it seems natural to look toward China where math test scores are much higher. The demand for a STEM workforce is prominent in American discussions about education, and grants to fund STEM education and research are promoted by the National Science Foundation. But what differences really exist between the two countries and how can both apply the strengths of each other?

Chinese schools encourage the rewards of hard work toward a common goal, and educators there do not attempt to predict outcomes through psychometric measures of merit as in the U.S. Chinese students have a longer school day, do not get to choose which classes they want, and compete for places at the next level on the basis of standard exams. American schools stress a well-rounded education where personal expression is encouraged and rewarded.

This comparative topic – Chinese and American classroom education – will be explored in the museum's new exhibit, now in the development stages and shepherded by academicians and cultural communication experts from Southern California. Scheduled for completion in 2015, it will debut in Orange County with an eye on sharing the exhibit with museums across the country. Planners hope that the new exhibition will act as a catalyst for robust discussion among American educators, parents, and those who manage educational funding.

– more –



At the same time, the exhibit-planning team is developing the exhibit to be illuminating for parents, educators, policy makers, and students of all ages. Various components will provide a fascinating glimpse into classroom experiences of vastly different cultures, expressed through entirely different writing systems and historical traditions. Curriculum for teachers, travel boxes featuring Chinese and American educational tools and “artifacts,” and online learning guides will accompany the exhibit. Funding for the exhibit, entitled *Beyond the Testing Race: Exploring Classrooms in China and the U.S.*, is being sought.

The Museum of Teaching and Learning’s current exhibit, *A Class Action: The Grassroots Struggle for School Desegregation in California* recently received the 2013 **Leadership in History Award** from the Association of State and Local History. Recently on display at the Roybal Federal Building in Los Angeles, it will travel to multiple sites, including federal courthouses in San Francisco and San Diego. The exhibit made its debut at the Old Orange County Courthouse in Santa Ana.

The March 21 event features a light supper, silent auction of Chinese artifacts and art, and the Harrington lecture. It will be held in the Hastings room of the Ayres Hotel, 325 Bristol in Costa Mesa, at the intersection of Red Hill and Bristol just off the 73. Tickets are \$45 and can be purchased at www.motal.org.

MUSEUM OF TEACHING AND LEARNING
WWW.MOTAL.ORG

The Museum of Teaching and Learning is headquartered in Fullerton, California, and is the brainchild of Dr. Greta Nagel, a retired college professor who recognized that the business of education and all that it implies has not been recorded, recognized, or shared within a public museum context. The Museum creates exhibits and events to educate people about education, inspiring communities to better understand the learning process and the role and importance of education in a democratic society. Its goals are to raise social awareness of how education shapes our children, build respect for the teaching profession, promote citizens to action, and inspire change in educators.

###