



For Immediate Release

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MOTAL DISTINGUISHED LECTURE A SUCCESS

Fullerton, California — April 1, 2014 — At the end of March, the award-winning Museum of Teaching and Learning (MOTAL) hosted a distinguished lecture and dinner that featured authority Rick Harrington at the Ayres Hotel Newport Beach/Costa Mesa. The event was a benefit for the development of the museum's new exhibition that compares American and Chinese classroom education. Harrington is a recent transplant from the East Coast where he was a noted educator in the gifted and talented arena. He holds a B.A. in Chinese literature from Yale University and a master's in comparative education from SUNY Buffalo. He has been serving as a project manager for visiting Chinese educators at Cal State Fullerton while he completes his Ph.D. in comparative education at Claremont Graduate University.

In his talk, "A Peek at American Schools Through the Eyes of Chinese Teachers," Rick discussed the strengths of both educational systems and pointed out how educators and stakeholders in the two countries can learn from each other. Guests enjoyed his entertaining, conversational style as he revealed interesting facts and perspectives. For



example, Chinese visitors are astonished that American schools often do not have windows and encourage highly decorated walls. They are surprised that elementary teachers teach many subjects—not just one—and have to grade student work at home, not during regular school hours. The fundraising event also featured tasty Chinese appetizers, Chinese treasures as key items in the silent auction, and an enthusiastic group of gathered supporters.

Harrington is part of an eight-member creative team that has been working to design MOTALS next exhibit, titled *Beyond the Testing Race: Exploring Classrooms in China and the U.S.* The first preview rollout is slated for October 2014, followed by a celebrated opening in early 2015. Donations in support of the exhibit are happily accepted at www.motal.org.

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ABOUT MOTAL

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.

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