

**Language Competency:  
Ohio's Roadmap to the Future**



**Ohio Foreign Language Association Annual Conference**  
**April 2-4, 2009; Columbus, Ohio**  
**Martha Pero, President**

**Educator Friend of  
Foreign Languages Award**



**Kun Shi**

*Director, K-12 Chinese Flagship Program, OSU*

These days it seems that teachers are working harder than ever to promote the study of Foreign Languages at the secondary level. When one thinks of second language acquisition studies, the languages that come to mind are Spanish, French, German, or Latin. Kun Shi has been instrumental in building sustainable Chinese language programs in Ohio's K-12 schools.

For the last three years, Mr. Shi has worked in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Education to coordinate the Chinese Language Symposium, an annual conference titled Making the Global Connection—Linking Students and China to the 21st Century. The mission of the Flagship is to provide guidance to K-12 Chinese Language programs. Several secondary schools, Metro and Beavercreek among them, commented that the success of their Chinese programs is the result of Kun's energy, knowledge, leadership and dedication. Mr. Shi organizes professional development workshops for Chinese teachers and has instituted Chinese Immersion Summer Camps in three metro areas of Ohio.

More recently, Mr. Shi has been the guiding force in the development of the Ohio Chinese Teachers Association. He has performed numerous tasks in this role: organized the group, provided support materials, hosted meetings, and ensured a greater degree of participation of Chinese teachers in the Ohio Foreign Language Association. One of his colleagues says that "his enthusiasm seems endless and always energizes and lifts up his team of teachers."