Confucius Institute Q & A

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1. **What is the value in having the Confucius Institute at Western Michigan University?**

   - Signature opportunity to partner with a Chinese University to bring Chinese language and cultural studies to our University. We benefit from having language instructors on our campus and supported by the Chinese government. It allows us to enhance our language instruction capacity for a language that is in high demand.

   - Opportunity to prepare our students for a global economy and give them skills and experience with an emerging economic power.

2. **What makes this Institute unique?**

   - Our partner in China is the Beijing Language and Culture University, which is really the premier language university in China. It is a university with which we already enjoy a strong connection. We have students studying there and have had our faculty serve as visiting professors there as well.

3. **How do you feel the Confucius Institute helps benefit the community at large?**

   - Cultural performances they might not have been able to enjoy otherwise
   - Language instruction in local schools
   - A resource for parts of our business community that want to cultivate trade relationships

4. **How do you see this effecting the development of our community in the future?**
5. **Please tell me about the collaboration between BLCU and the CI of WMU.**

- The agreements have brought Chinese language faculty members, financially sponsored by the Chinese partners, to the WMU campus each year to help the University expand language arts and cultural offerings on campus. In addition, WMU's library holdings will be enhanced, and the Beijing school will designate WMU as one of its major study abroad sites and begin sending as many as 30 students to study in Kalamazoo each year.

6. **You visited Beijing in July 2009 and again in December 2010. Please discuss your personal experiences in China and your involvement with the Institute.**

- I can't even go there. Providing an answer to this one would be sending coals to Newcastle.