

EMPOWERING
EDUCATORS
TO ENGAGE
THE WORLD

Global Teachers: Singapore

Awareness | Understanding | Action



CIU 2015-2016



THE CENTER for
INTERNATIONAL
UNDERSTANDING
The University of North Carolina



“The perspectives I gained as a teacher – and as a lifelong student – have enabled me to open up the world to my rural students in ways I hadn’t previously imagined.”

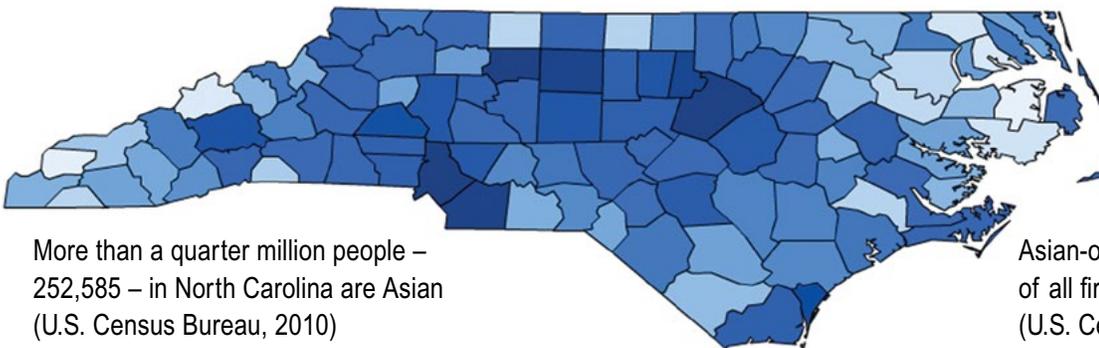
Melissa Bradian, Social Studies Teacher
Bethel Middle School, Haywood County

CIU’s Global Teachers Program:

Singapore and Malaysia were the destinations of the 2015 Global Teachers program focused on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and urban education. Singapore, a tiny island nation just 50-years-old, offered insight into how a national focus on education can fuel economic success. While in Singapore, teachers saw model urban planning in transportation, housing and ethnic diversity, and were introduced to government officials, teachers, students and educational nonprofit organizations.

Traveling north to Malaysia, teachers experienced a melting pot of races, religions, and cultural traditions. Global Teachers use these experiences to bring the world to their classrooms.

NC–Asia Connections



Find the Heat Map:
<http://ciu.northcarolina.edu>

18 subsidiaries of Singaporean and Malaysian companies employ 1,093 North Carolinians (Dun & Bradstreet and UniWorld)

Asian-owned firms account for 2.5% of all firms operating in North Carolina (U.S. Census Bureau, 2007)

More than a quarter million people – 252,585 – in North Carolina are Asian (U.S. Census Bureau, 2010)

2015 Global Teachers Singapore Delegation

Nearly 40 award-winning North Carolina K-12 teachers, several of whom had never before been out of the country, explored education, culture and history in Singapore and Malaysia in July 2015. Delegates were elementary, middle and high school educators from multiple subject areas, representing 17 counties.



Learning from the world: *our impressions*

- An integrated planning process that involves education, government and economic development is at the heart of Singapore's success as a globally competitive nation
- Investing in education and high-quality workforce development can prepare a population for the demands of the global economy
- Multiple cultures can co-exist in harmony — Singapore's diversity is celebrated, contributing to its consistently high quality-of-life ratings
- Singapore's schools, government agencies and nonprofits recognize the importance of entrepreneurial thinking in job-readiness and have implemented creative projects like mobile labs to spur innovation
- Best practices in Singapore can be adapted and used in schools across North Carolina

Serving North Carolina: *our actions*

- Incorporate learning into the very structure of the school building — add an ecosystem with plants and fish, use all available surfaces for inspirational slogans that motivate students and set a positive tone throughout the building
- Be more mindful of the role of culture in shaping how we teach and interact with our students and their families
- Establish school-to-school global partnerships to connect students, teachers, and lessons in Singapore and North Carolina.
- Investigate cultural inclusion practices of a community organization dedicated to increasing academic success of Indian students, the Singapore Indian Development Association (SINDA)
- Develop lesson plans incorporating concepts from Singapore like water reclamation and vertical gardening
- Each day, bring a new perspective of awareness of Asian culture into the classroom



"I am now less singularly focused on my immediate surroundings and more globally aware of the potential future impact of working with people with different backgrounds and experiences. Sharing ideas and methods can ultimately produce more effective students, teachers, principals, and officials."

Laura Bryson
English Teacher
Northwest Cabarrus High School



Mission

The Center for International Understanding (CIU) optimizes North Carolina's global engagement by supporting the development and alignment of globally connected educational, economic, and community opportunities. CIU is a program of The University of North Carolina system.



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Follow our Progress   