

EEF INITIATIVES FOR 2021



青樹教育基金會

EVERGREEN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

2021 Annual Letter

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By Dr. Jo Bell Whitlatch - Board Member & Education Committee
In past years, Evergreen Education Foundation conferences, workshops, and small projects have been popular and successful programs, which have supported our commitment to educational equity in rural China. Our education committee, headed by Dr. Lili Luo, Dr. Jo Bell Whitlatch, and Jingyi Yu, developed and administered a need-based survey to identify the issues that EEF should focus on for the next year or two. Teacher training, especially on developing informative assessments and rubrics, comes on top of the list. We had two successful pilot projects completed from March through August with encouraging and promising results. As we cannot offer in-person workshops and training this year, we are also making progress on effectively communicating with teachers under the new normal of purely online communications.

After surveying Evergreen teachers, the EEF Board identified two initiatives as having the most possibilities for enhancing the learning environment for students in rural China:

1. Explore the potential for online teaching through projects that provide a rich teaching plan, teaching aids, and some new educational concepts; for example “One Window Project” and “One Kilogram Box.” Provide practical training through hands-on project training; train teachers by treating teachers as students working on real projects. Our first step will be to provide a summary of how these programs might be utilized to enhance teaching and learning in rural China.
2. Through financial and information technology support promote the use of Makerspace, STEM education, research on teaching cases, instructional design, and multidisciplinary integration related to STEM education. As part of this initiative, we are exploring potential collaboration worldwide on constructing a website and database for use in locating teaching projects, including topics, content, and how to evaluate student learning.

For students in rural China, well-designed online modules that can be distributed over vast distances have the potential to enhance student success through interactive programs that introduce the latest educational ideas, methods, and interactive projects. Well-designed online modules have the potential to provide rural students with learning opportunities comparable to those students living in urban areas.

SUPPORTING THE LI GENG SHENG PROJECT

By Jingyi Yu – EEF Vice President

The Li Geng Sheng (LGS) Project of Beijing University Education Foundation was set up by Faith Chao, founder and former President of Evergreen Education Foundation. LGS is named after her grandfather, who was a famous patriotic educator and respected at the national level in China. Professor Chao hopes to continue her grandfather's spirit in education for China. To continue to benefit rural students, recent changes in China NGO relations have required EEF to adapt and evolve.

By partnering with the China based LGS Project, Evergreen is able to support resources and opportunities for teachers and students in rural China. The LGS Project includes teacher training and supports them to conduct student activities in STEM and other educational projects both online and locally. The Evergreen LGS project started with "Paper Circuit" online teacher training at Tongwei public library in Gansu Province.

The training resulted in teachers creating fun and interesting activities for their students. Everyone played with Paper Circuit at school, library or home in all kinds of themes, such as birthday cards, personal designs, or holiday greetings. Additionally, more projects evolved, such as "Playdoh circuit," "Vibrating robot," and "Cinderella drama club." By taking advantage of online training, these LGS projects spread to many small rural libraries. Prof. Wang at Beijing University and his team developed the LGS project's free classes and hosted more than 50 activities for remote students in the rural villages.

More curriculum and teachers joining the LGS project. Ongoing Evergreen support will allow the LGS Project to continue developing the platform, establishing communities, and providing a global resource.

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VISION:

Every Child in Rural China Has Access to Relevant Educational Opportunities

MISSIONS:

To improve education opportunities
To promote information literacy
To bridge between China & the world

VALUES:

Bringing education opportunities to rural China



EXPLORING PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT K-12 EDUCATION

By Prof. Lili Luo - Board Member & Education Committee

The Evergreen Education Foundation seeks to explore the innovative approaches adopted by non-profit organizations in China. Our exploration will allow us to gain insights on how to more successfully develop programs to support K-12 education in rural China. We identified two organizations in China that are considered to be pioneers in delivering STEM education and pedagogical tools to teachers and students in rural China - "One Window Project" [see <https://padforhope.org/>] and "One Kilogram Box" [see <https://zhuanlan.zhihu.com/p/36909340>]; then we engaged in an information-gathering initiative to examine these two organizations' methods in program/product design, implementation, and outreach.

During the first phase of the initiative, one of our volunteers, who is fluent in both Chinese and English, is working on exploring and analyzing the rich content in the WeChat accounts of One Window Project and One Kilogram Box, which include detailed introductions of who they are, what they do, and constant updates about their activities. A report will be produced to explain the programs or products provided by each organization, including the general description/organization of the program/product, cost, access methods for the program/product, strengths and weaknesses of the present program/product, and future development plans. The report will help us decide on the focus of the next phase as we continue our exploratory effort. Ultimately, we hope to inform our own program design and delivery and identify potential opportunities to collaborate with other non-profit organizations in providing assistance to rural education in China.

Announcing the publication in *Library & Information Science*
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/library-and-information-science-research/vol/43/issue/4>

Creating a ubiquitous reading environment for children in undeveloped rural areas: An action research project

By Zizhou Wang, Xiaofang Zhang, and Ge Zhang

Dept. of Information Management, Peking University, Beijing, China

Reading literacy in children is very low in undeveloped, rural areas compared to reading literacy levels in urban children. Action research is effective in exploring collaboration among libraries, schools, and families to improve rural children's reading levels. To create a ubiquitous reading environment for rural children, a three-stage and two-year action framework was initially designed and evaluated in this study. Ten action research circles were carried out within this framework involving 10 rural libraries, 11 primary schools and 127 families in China. Findings show positive effects of the improved reading environment. Five themes were identified to interpret why the research project exerted positive impacts on rural areas and to guide future action for libraries and other sectors to develop children's literacy as strategies.

People interested in reading the entire article, may also consult their local library to find out how to obtain access.



SHANGHAI MAKERSFAIRE REFLECTIONS

I am Guojuan Shang, a volunteer teacher of the Li Gengsheng Program. I am very grateful to the Evergreen Education Foundation for supporting me in participating in the 2021 Shanghai Maker Faire. This event brought together makers from different organizations, including the Woodworking Museum, Maker Space, educators from Shanghai elementary and middle schools, individual makers, and commercial exhibitors. I have seen many interesting and creative projects, such as bottle cap robot activities, masks designed with recycled materials, creative stools redesigned based on IKEA products, water rocket projects, superconducting magnetic levitation demonstrations, somatosensory tails and so on. Becoming acquainted with these novel projects provides a lot of inspiration for my own design projects. I have planned to add the water rocket project, bottle cap robot, and creative stool project to our program. I believe that our teachers and students will benefit from these new projects, and with more choices, they will be able to participate in their own favorite projects.

This faire also allowed me to see how the most advanced regions and schools in China's maker field carry out maker education, and how they integrate the knowledge into interesting projects, which motivate children. For example, the Outerspace Exploration Project is very well designed. It integrates the practical application of Microbit (testing the air humidity and temperature of alien planets) and 3D modeling and printing technology (spacecraft 3D design.)

I found this exhibition very exciting and encouraging because several projects we are already working on, including paper circuits and vibrating robots, are also being carried out by other institutions; they are very popular in the exhibition, so I am more determined and confident to continue on our projects. In addition, although we have the same content, the project design is slightly different, giving me new ideas to improve our existing projects. I had a very meaningful learning experience. Thanks again to the Li Gengsheng Project and Evergreen Education Foundation for your support and help.



I want to support rural education in China by donating to Evergreen Education Foundation:



Oral History and STEAM Programs

- _____ \$50 will support one day of a teacher's workshop lodging
- _____ \$150 will give one way teacher's workshop travel expenses
- _____ \$500 will fund a teacher to attend an entire workshop

Small Projects

- _____ \$750 will fund small project at a rural school

General Funds

\$ _____

Donation Total

\$ _____

PayPal:

accounting@evergreeneducation.org

Mail to:

Evergreen Education Foundation
P.O. BOX 2433
Castro Valley, CA 94546

Name: _____

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Phone: _____

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