

2011 Youth Building Bridges (YBB) Public Meeting

Date: Feb. 26th, 2011

Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm

Location: C&T Youth Technology Academy

Address: 14320 Travilah Road, MD 20850

Meeting Purpose and Objective:

C & T Youth Technology Academy has officially announced the Youth Building Bridges program to Montgomery County. After two successful trips to China, C & T plans to expand the program in 2011. To help parents and students better understand YBB, we are holding this public meeting to explain the program and share the experience with new YBB members.

Agenda:

Moderator: Mrs. Ruyan Teng

1. Meeting Content

Title	Speaker & Time	Description
2010 YBB Documentary	David R. Chen 10:05-10:20am	Students of YBB have created a short documentary to provide insight into the YBB program.
2010 YBB Recall	Katie Weng & Danting Liu 10:20-10:50am	Katie and Danting are high school students from Richard Montgomery HS IB program and Blair HS Math Computer Science Magnet program share their experiences traveling with YBB to Shangdong, an impoverished area of China.
YBB Impact and Effectiveness	Mrs. Ruyan Teng	Mrs. Teng, founder of the YBB program, describes what it YBB and the incredible growth of the program over two short years.

2. Question and Answer session.

YBB program participants will answer questions.

About Youth Building Bridges (YBB)

1. What is the Youth Building Bridges (YBB) Program?

Youth Building Bridges (YBB) program empowers American and Chinese students to travel to rural, poverty-stricken areas in China, teaching and sharing their knowledge within the primary and secondary education systems. Through education and social guidance, American students develop an international perspective and gain a unique experience of the power of education within the global community.

2. What is the philosophy behind Youth Building Bridges?

Education is best achieved through practice in a real-world setting. Community is the best classroom, and community service is the best practice for learning. Life is the best teacher. Therefore, YBB is a perfect enrichment program for youth to grow as leaders, educators and effective members of the global community.

3. What factors influenced the creation of the program?

In May 2009, YBB program creator, Mrs. Teng met a Yale University student, Miss Merlin Deng, who is one of the three founders of the “Building Bridges” program at Yale University. The Building Bridges program was founded on the same idea C&T envisioned for youth community-service program, to provide education and community assistance in rural areas of China. Mrs. Teng asked Merlin if she could expand the program to provide high school students the chance to work with college students. She knew high school students were ready to take this opportunity. Merlin thought it was a good idea.

4. What happened the first year and how did the program develop into the second year?

In summer 2009, C&T organized five American high school students from the Washington metropolitan area and traveled with college students from Yale

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University and several Chinese colleges to Shifang, in Shichuan province, an area that had suffered a devastating magnitude 8.0 earthquake in May, 2008. The disaster led to more than 80,000 deaths and the displacement of 5 million people in the region. YBB assisted in post-disaster education guidance and reconstruction projects there. American students learned a lot through the program, and they helped as well. The Aixin Foundation also served as a facilitator to help to community with Chinese government. It was a great success.

In fall 2009, C&T officially established the Youth Building Bridges (YBB) program, and continued to work with Yale University's "Building Bridges" and the Aixin Foundation. In summer of 2010, YBB escorted 24 American high school students and 24 college students to Shangdong. They spent two weeks assisting 450 students in this remote, rural village. The YBB participants gained much life experience and helped to provide instruction to children who have severely limited resources.

5. What were the expectations for YBB program?

The expectations were to provide opportunities for American youth to not only help Chinese youth through education, but to mature, gain a sense of responsibility and "Give Back" through community service.

6. What efforts YBB take in order to coordinate this program?

Youth Building Bridges is an international educational program established by C & T Youth Technology Academy. This program benefits greatly from assistance by Aixin Foundation. YBB currently collaborates with the Building Bridges program of Yale University and Shanghai Jiaotong University in China. The program have also collaborated with over 20 government, educational, and charity organizations to work with children in Shandong and Sichuan.

7. How does C & T prepare for the YBB program?

YBB is a summer program, lasting approximately two weeks, but takes months of preparation. In January, YBB hosted an introduction program meeting for public, so parents can better understand exactly what the trip is about. In February, we begin receiving applications, which consists of an application form and written essay. In

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March we conduct student interviews and in April, we finish reviewing and send acceptance letters. April, May and June are spent creating teaching materials and conducting education training for participants. In June and July, students finalize lesson plans and try to prepare for the conditions they will be living in for two weeks.

8. Why are YBB members so passionate about YBB?

YBB is a great program. It provides opportunities to American youth to help others and gain unique life experience themselves. YBB is a family, a warm, positive and hard working family. Every YBB student believes that they can help rural children excel through better education, and the participants also learn to become leaders.

About C&T Youth Technology Academy:

C & T Youth Technology Academy is an education enrichment program with a student body of over 250 students, from elementary through high school. C & T strives to educate students beyond the basic educational standards, to empower students to reach beyond the minimum expected of them, and to enrich their education through life experience, travel and an understanding of local and the global communities. Through these initiatives, students achieve intellectual growth, responsibility in roles of leadership, and a lifelong practice of giving back to communities.