

Jinai Sun, Ph.D. 孙金爱

Professor of Chinese | Department of World Languages and Cultures

North Central College | Naperville, Illinois 60540 | jsun@noctrl.edu

Curriculum Vitae · Updated October 2026

EDUCATION

2011	Ph.D., Educational Administration , The Pennsylvania State University Dissertation: <i>Chinese as "Species" in the American High School: An Organizational Case Study</i>
2009	M.Ed., Educational Administration , The Pennsylvania State University
2001	B.A., English Literature and Linguistics , Harbin Normal University, China

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

North Central College, Naperville, Illinois

2026–present	Professor of Chinese
2021–2026	Associate Professor of Chinese
2014–2021	Assistant Professor of Chinese
2011–2014	Visiting Professor of Chinese

- Founded and developed the Chinese major, overseeing curriculum design, program assessment, faculty collaboration, and student mentoring.
- Teach Chinese language, culture, and interdisciplinary courses. Lead study abroad programs and community-engaged learning initiatives.

2026–present **Coordinator, CARD 400: Senior Capstone Program**

Provide college-wide academic coordination of faculty development, curriculum, and assessment. Foster interdisciplinary learning and student success through collaboration with faculty, library services, and general education initiatives.

2011–2024 **Principal Investigator and Program Director, NCC–STARTALK Programs**

Secured federal grant funding for Chinese language teacher training and high school student summer immersion programs. Directed program design, curriculum development, faculty coordination, implementation, and assessment, emphasizing effective teaching practices.

Ray Chinese Weekend School, Lisle, Illinois

2023–2025 **Principal**

Provided strategic leadership in academic programming, faculty development, school operations and planning, overseeing 60+ faculty and serving 700+ students. Fostered a positive school culture, strengthened family engagement, and community partnerships.

2018–2023 **Vice Principal**

Led curriculum development, classroom observations, instructional supervision, teacher mentoring, and professional development. Oversaw student assessment and instructional improvement to enhance teaching quality and student achievement.

The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania

2008–2011	Research Assistant and Graduate Instructor
------------------	--

Earlier Teaching Appointments

2005–2009	Chinese Language Instructor, Happy Valley Chinese School, State College, Pennsylvania
2001–2004	Chinese Language Instructor, Tsinghua University Language Extension, Beijing, China

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Book

- 2025** Sun, J., Xuehua, X., and Ye, L. *Using Chinese Classics for Intercultural Communicative Competence: A Teacher's Guide*. Routledge.

Book Chapters

- 2025** Sun, J. "瑞华中文学校与社区合作的探索" [Exploring Partnerships between Chinese Language Schools and Local Communities]. In 华文教育区域国别研究: 《世界华文教育》论文集 (2016–2025) [Regional and Country Studies in Chinese Language Education: Selected Papers from *World Chinese Language Education*, 2016–2025]. Sino-Culture Press. [In Chinese.]
- 2023** Sun, J., and Patterson, P. "Teaching Chinese through Classic Literature: A Cross-Disciplinary Collaboration." In *A Transdisciplinary Approach to Chinese and Japanese Language Teaching*. Routledge.
- 2015** Sun, J., and Shouse, R. "U.S. Policies and Initiatives for CFL Education." In *Chinese Language Education in the United States*. Springer.

Journal Articles

- 2026** Sun, J. "效率提升与价值回归并行: AI 工具实践、培训路径与华文教育的再定位" [Balancing Efficiency and Educational Value: AI Tools, Teacher Development, and the Repositioning of Chinese Heritage Education]. *世界华文教育研究*, no. 2. [In Chinese.]
- 2022** Sun, J., et al. "美国的中文学校建设及管理经验分享" [Experiences and Best Practices in Establishing and Managing Chinese Language Schools in the United States]. *世界华文教育* [World Chinese Language Education]. [In Chinese.]
- 2020** Sun, J., and Patterson, P. "Experiential Learning in Teaching *Dream of the Red Chamber*." *Cao Xueqin Studies*, no. 4. [In Chinese.]
- 2020** Zhou, Y., and Sun, J. "Using Social Media to Promote Intercultural Communication between Chinese and American University Students." *Chinese Journal of Applied Linguistics*.
- 2014** Sun, J., and Shouse, R. "Using Theories to Understand the Barriers to Chinese Foreign Language Programs in American High Schools." *Academic Exchange Quarterly*.
- 2013** Zhou, Y., and Sun, J. "An Action Research of Chinese Context-Based Intercultural Teaching: A Case Study of an Intercultural Exchange Project between American and Chinese College Students." *Intercultural Communication Studies*.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2025** **Outstanding Community Contribution Award**, United Chinese Association, Illinois Chapter.
- 2011–2024** **NCC–STARTALK Programs**, Principal Investigator and Program Director. Secured and managed over \$1 million in federal funding for Chinese language programs, teacher training, curriculum innovation, and intercultural education.
- 2019** **ASIANetwork Grant**, "Understanding China through the Classic Novel *Dream of the Red Chamber*." Supported faculty–student research and experiential learning in China.
- 2013–present** **Scholarly and Creative Work and Summer Undergraduate Research Grants**, North Central College, for faculty–student research and curriculum development.
- 2013, 2015** **Chinese Culture Land Summer Camp**. Partnered with the Xilin Association to host over 300 students at North Central College.
- 2012** **Willower Award for Dissertation Excellence**, The Pennsylvania State University.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Forthcoming	"Making the Liberal Arts Visible: Building Shared Purpose in CARD 400." Co-presented with Lindsay Harmon. Faculty Pedagogy Symposium, Associated Colleges of the Chicago Area (ACCA), Lewis University, Oak Brook, IL.
Forthcoming	"Human-Centered AI in Chinese Language Education: Cultivating Intercultural Understanding in a Time of Uncertainty." HICCS 2027, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.
2026	"Chinese Language Education in the AI Era: Challenges, Opportunities, and Future Directions." CLTA Midwest Annual Conference, North Central College, Naperville, IL.
2026	"Higher Education & Language Education in the AI Era: From Change to Action." AI in Higher Education Summit (AIHES 2026), ESCP Business School, Paris, France, March 17–18.
2025	"AI-Empowered Chinese Education." Panel contribution, Chinese School Principals Forum, "Chinese Schools in the AI Era: Changes and Opportunities," 15th CSAUS National Convention and Chinese Education Conference, Boston, MA.
2025	"First Year Cardinal Experience: Building Connection, Purpose, and Long-Term Student Success." Co-presented with Kate Pszotka. Associated Colleges of the Chicago Area (ACCA) Pedagogy Symposium.
2023	"A Transdisciplinary Approach to College-Level Chinese Language Teaching: Collaborative Pedagogy Across Languages, Disciplines, and Communities." Panel with Li Jin, Xin Zhang, and Leihua Weng. CLTA Annual Conference, Washington, DC.
2023	"Enhance Language and Intercultural Communication Competence through Project-Based Learning." Co-presented with Li Ye, panel on "The Application of Project-Based Learning in STARTALK Programs." CLTA Annual Conference, Washington, DC.
2023	Panel organizer and participant, "Teaching Chinese Language and Culture through Digital Media." ASIANetwork Annual Conference, Columbus, OH.
2022	"Authenticity and Real-Life Readiness in Language Learning." Co-presented with Wen Xiong and Yunjuan He. National Chinese Language Conference (NCLC), virtual.
2022	"Using Chinese Classics to Strengthen Language and Intercultural Communicative Competence" (《高效利用中国经典文学素材提高学生的语言和跨文化交际能力》). CLTA Annual Conference, virtual. [In Chinese.]
2021	"Teaching Classic Chinese Stories as a Bridge to Interculturality." Co-presented with Li Ye and Shaoping Zhang. ACTFL Annual Convention, virtual.
2021	"Exploring School–Community Collaboration at Ray Chinese School" (《瑞华中文学校与社区合作的探索与分享》). Chinese School Association in the United States (CSAUS), San Diego, CA. [In Chinese.]
2021	" <i>Dream of the Red Chamber</i> and <i>Journey to the West</i> as a Bridge to Linguistic and Intercultural Competence." CLTA Special Interest Group Webinar Series, online.
2021	"Experiential Learning through <i>Dream of the Red Chamber</i> : A Chinese Novel as a Bridge to Linguistic and Intercultural Competence." Co-presented with Stuart Patterson. Symposium on Teaching China and Japan, DePaul University, Chicago, IL (online).
2019	"Community-Based Language Learning: How to Create Rigorous and Engaging Learning Experiences." CLTA Annual Conference, Seattle, WA.
2019	Invited talk, "Challenges and Opportunities of Chinese Education in America." Third Chinese Education Conference in the Midwest, Arlington Heights, IL. [In Chinese.]
2017	"Teaching Chinese Pop Culture with Effective Teaching Strategies and Tools." 15th International Conference on Teaching and Learning Chinese in Higher Education, University of Southampton, United Kingdom.

- 2016** "Effective Chinese Language and Culture Teaching through Authentic Materials." 14th International Conference on Teaching and Learning Chinese in Higher Education, Newcastle University, United Kingdom.
- 2015** "Using Social Media to Promote Intercultural Communication between Chinese and American University Students." Co-presented with Yingli Zhou. World Communication Association Conference, University of Lisbon, Portugal.
- 2015** LeTendre, G., and Sun, J. "Academic Reduction Reforms and Trans-national Educational Policy Cycles." European Conference on Educational Research (ECER), Budapest, Hungary.
- 2014** "Teaching Chinese Popular Culture in Intermediate and Advanced University Chinese Courses" (《美国大学中高级汉语课〈中国流行文化〉教学探讨》). CLTA International Symposium on Chinese Language Teaching and Learning, Indiana University Bloomington, IN. [In Chinese.]
- 2014** "Working with China." Invited poster presentation, STARTALK Fall Conference Expo, Indianapolis, IN.
- 2013** "Making Chinese Movies Matter: Exploring Three Modes of Communication in Teaching Chinese Language and Culture." Confucius Institute in Chicago, Chicago, IL.
- 2012** "Teaching Chinese Movies in the Advanced Language Classroom in the United States." Maryland International Conference on Chinese as a Second Language (MICCSL), University of Maryland, College Park, MD.
- 2012** "Effective Strategies for Building Sustainable Proficiency-Oriented Chinese Programs." Panel with Ke Peng and Chunyuan Di. ACTFL Annual Convention, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2012** "Motivation in Second Language Acquisition of the American College Students in International Business." 3rd International Conference on Business Chinese Teaching, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA.
- 2012** "Students' Motivations for Studying Chinese: Examine Undergraduates' Language Orientations." Panel presentation, *Promising Start: Excellence in Scholarship*, North Central College, Naperville, IL.
- 2011** "Barriers to Multicultural Initiatives: The Case of Mandarin and Arabic Foreign Language in an American High School." 55th Annual Conference of the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES), Montréal, Canada.
- 2010** "Chinese Language Expansion in the U.S.: An Organizational Framework for Understanding." ACTFL Annual Convention, Boston, MA.
- 2010** "Chinese Language Expansion in the U.S.: An Organizational Framework for Understanding." 54th Annual Conference of the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES), Chicago, IL.
- 2010** "A Case Study of Introducing Chinese Language Teaching to an American College Community." Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies Conference, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA.
- 2010** "Narratives of Cross-Cultural Language Teaching in an American University: Teaching Experiences of Foreign Graduate Students." Poster presentation, Achievement Conference, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA.

COURSES DESIGNED AND TAUGHT

Chinese Studies and General Education

Language of instruction: English

- **CHST 105: China Today.** Contemporary Chinese society, culture, history, globalization, and China's evolving role in the world.

- **CHST 106: Chinese Well-Being.** Chinese philosophies of health, happiness, mindfulness, traditional wellness practices, and holistic well-being.
- **CHST 107: Chinese Arts and Culture.** Traditional and contemporary Chinese arts, including calligraphy, painting, music, and performing arts, with hands-on cultural experiences.
- **CARD 100: Cardinal Directions.** First-year seminar emphasizing academic success, critical thinking, personal reflection, community engagement, and liberal arts learning.
- **CARD 400: Liberal Arts and the Problems of Today.** Interdisciplinary capstones on Understanding China and Asian Popular Culture, focused on globalization, cultural identity, media, and soft power.

Chinese Language and Culture

Language of instruction: Chinese

- **CHNS 101–102: Elementary Chinese.** Proficiency-based, communicative language instruction emphasizing real-world communication, intercultural competence, authentic materials, and experiential, project-based learning.
- **CHNS 201: Intermediate Chinese I.** Study abroad preparation emphasizing intercultural communication, cultural immersion, independent travel, and real-world language applications.
- **CHNS 202: Intermediate Chinese II.** Career-oriented language development integrating professional communication, résumé writing, job interviews, and practical workplace scenarios.
- **CHNS 310: Study Chinese Through Films.** Language proficiency development and critical cultural analysis through Chinese cinema, exploring history, society, and contemporary life.
- **CHNS 311: Chinese Popular Culture.** Exploration of Chinese music, film, social media, youth culture, and global cultural influence through authentic media and creative, student-led projects.
- **CHNS 314: Chinese Composition and Communication.** Advanced literacy development through Chinese literature, critical reading, creative and analytical writing, and academic communication.
- **CHNS 411: Chinese for the Professional Setting.** Internship-oriented experiential learning integrating professional Chinese, workplace communication, intercultural collaboration, and authentic career-related projects.

Study Abroad and Intercultural Learning

- **Faculty-Led Study Abroad: Mainland China, Taiwan, and Japan.** Designed and led interdisciplinary programs exploring *Chinese Identity, Innovation and Tradition*, and *Chinese Philosophy, Culture, and Society*, integrating cultural immersion, experiential learning, and intercultural reflection.

Language Immersion and Experiential Learning

- **STARTALK Student Summer Immersion Programs, 2011–2024.** Developed and directed federally funded Chinese language immersion programs for high school students, emphasizing proficiency-based instruction, communicative competence, cultural engagement, and experiential learning.

Teacher Education and Program Leadership

- **STARTALK Chinese Teacher Training Program, 2017–2019.** Designed and directed a federally funded teacher training program emphasizing proficiency-based pedagogy, curriculum design, instructional innovation, and effective teaching practices.

Professional and Workforce Language Education

- **Business Chinese, Governors State University.** Developed and taught grant-supported Chinese language and intercultural business training for corporate employees, focusing on professional communication, business etiquette, and practical workplace applications.

PROFESSIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

North Central College

- **Faculty Academic Advisor, 2011–present.** Advise Chinese majors and minors on degree requirements, academic planning, course sequencing, study abroad, transfer credits, and academic and career pathways.
- **Undergraduate Research Mentor, 2011–present.** Guide students in developing research projects, conducting interdisciplinary and cross-cultural inquiry, and presenting their work at the Rall Symposium and academic conferences.
- **Faculty Advisor, Chinese Club, 2011–present.** Mentor student leaders in planning cultural events, language exchange activities, and campus-wide programs that promote Chinese language learning and intercultural engagement.
- **Faculty Mentor, CAFE Faculty Mentorship Network, 2025–present.** Mentor faculty colleagues in assessment and feedback, student engagement, self-regulated learning, and experiential teaching practices.
- **Member, Dean Review Committee, 2026–2027.** Contribute faculty perspectives to the confidential review and evaluation of academic leadership.
- **Member, Promotion and Tenure Committee, 2026.** Participate in faculty evaluation and review processes in accordance with institutional policies and standards.
- **Member, Cultural Events Committee, 2025.** Contributed to the planning and coordination of cultural programming and campus engagement initiatives.
- **Member, International Programs Committee, 2024.** Supported institutional initiatives related to international education, study abroad, and global engagement.
- **Member, Faculty Development and Recognition Committee, 2021.** Evaluated faculty sabbatical and professional leave proposals using established review criteria and scoring rubrics to support faculty development and institutional decision-making.
- **Member, Assistant Professor of Japanese Search Committee, 2021.** Reviewed applications, evaluated candidates, and contributed to faculty recruitment and hiring recommendations.
- **Member, General Education Committee, 2020.** Participated in reviewing general education curriculum and requirements.
- **Member, Associate Professor of Spanish Search Committee, 2019.** Participated in faculty recruitment, application review, candidate evaluation, and hiring recommendations.

Regional, National, and International Service

- **Vice President, CLTA Midwest, 2026.** Helped establish the association and organize its inaugural conference at North Central College, Naperville, IL, on August 30, 2026.
- **Invited Peer Reviewer, *Chinese as a Second Language*, 2026.** Accepted an invitation to review for the special issue "Artificial Intelligence and Chinese as a Second Language Teaching and Learning."
- **Member, Fulbright U.S. Student Program National Screening Committee, 2022–present.** English Teaching Assistant Awards to Taiwan. Review and rate applications and participate in the national screening process.
- **Co-organizer, Midwest University Chinese Speech Contest, 2021–present.** Collaborate with regional university Chinese programs on opportunities for student language performance.
- **Judge, Midwest Middle and High School Chinese Speech Contest, 2025.** Walter Payton College Preparatory High School, Chicago, IL, May 31, 2025. Evaluated presentations in the grades 7–8 immersion division.
- **Advisory Committee Member, China–America Student Conference (ChASC), International Student Conferences, Inc., 2024–2025.** Contributed to conference planning, recruitment discussions, and connections with universities and student groups in China.
- **Member, 15th Board of Directors, Chinese School Association in the United States (CSAUS), 2023–2025.** Supported national professional activities and audiovisual and logistical coordination for the 2025 national convention in Boston, MA.

- **Board Member, Chinese American Women in Action (CAWA), Naperville, IL, 2022–2023.** Supported youth programming and community outreach.
- **Executive Committee Member, Hua Rui Cup Chinese Recitation Contest, 2019.** North Central College, Naperville, IL.
- **Organizer and Workshop Leader, Regional Chinese Language Teacher Development, 2012–2013.** Organized and hosted workshops at North Central College serving more than 60 local educators. Continued teacher development work through NCC–STARTALK programming.
- **Advisory Member, Naperville China Committee, Naperville, IL.** Supported connections between college and community resources and helped coordinate Chinese-language access to municipal information.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CERTIFICATIONS

Certifications and Selected Specialized Training

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 2025 | ACTFL Modified Oral Proficiency Interview (MOPI) Assessment Certificate. American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. Training covered ACTFL proficiency levels, interview structure and elicitation techniques, oral proficiency rating, and classroom assessment applications. |
| 2018 | Human Subjects Research, Basic Course. Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI Program), North Central College. Completed September 21. Coursework included research ethics, informed consent, risk assessment, and privacy and confidentiality. |
| 2014 | STARTALK Performance Assessment Training Program. Center for Applied Linguistics. Participated in online training and collaborative assessment planning for the NCC–STARTALK program. |
| 2005 | Certificate in Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language. Ministry of Education of China. |
| 2002–2003 | Chinese Teacher Training Program. Beijing Language and Culture University, Beijing, China. |

Workshops and Faculty Development

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 2026 | American Association of University Professors (AAUP) Workshop. The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL. Sessions on academic freedom, faculty rights, shared governance, and institutional policies. |
| 2026 | "Working with AI: Literacy, Tools, and Techniques." Faculty workshop led by José Antonio Bowen, North Central College, Naperville, IL. Focused on AI literacy, critical thinking, teaching, and assessment. |
| 2021 | "Simulation: An Experiential Learning Opportunity." Center for the Advancement of Faculty Excellence (CAFE), North Central College, Naperville, IL. |
| 2020 | "Fostering Student Belonging." Summer Faculty Seminar, North Central College, Naperville, IL. Focused on practices that promote student belonging and success. |
| 2019 | "Bridging the Gap: Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and Accessibility." CAFE, North Central College, Naperville, IL. |
| 2017 | "Experiential Education in the College Context: What Is It, How It Works, and Why It Matters." CAFE, North Central College, Naperville, IL. |
| 2016–2017 | "Chinese Teaching Case Study: Analysis & Application." Workshop series led by Dr. Wei-ling Wu, Chicago Public Schools, Walter Payton College Preparatory High School, Chicago, IL. Topics included lesson analysis, backward design, communicative learning objectives, and alignment of instruction and assessment. |
| 2012 | "Articulating K–16 CFL/CSL Curriculum through Task-Based Instruction." CLTA Teacher Workshop, ACTFL Annual Convention, Philadelphia, PA. |

- 2012** **"Enhancing Students' Oral Proficiency in Foreign Languages: A New Perspective on Language and Language Learning."** Teacher workshop, Lewis University, Romeoville, IL.
- 2012** **"Developing and Assessing Your Students' Language Proficiency."** Preconference workshop, National Chinese Language Conference, Washington, DC.
- 2011** **"Thematic Approach to Build Language Functions in Chinese."** Preconference workshop, ACTFL Annual Convention, San Diego, CA.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)
- Chinese Language Association of Secondary-Elementary Schools (CLASS)
- Chinese Language Teachers Association (CLTA)
- Midwest Chinese Teacher Alliance (MCTA)
- Suburban Chicago Teacher Association (SCTA)
- American Educational Research Association (AERA)
- ASIANetwork
- Comparative and International Education Society (CIES)