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Xavier Earns 2016 Confucius Institute of the Year Award

New Orleans LA – Xavier University of Louisiana, host of one of the top Chinese language programs in the state, received the prestigious Confucius Institute of the Year Award Dec. 10. Dr. Anne McCall, Xavier’s Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, accepted the honor during the opening ceremony of the 11th Confucius Institute Conference in Kunming, China, in front of an audience of over 2,000 government officials and university administrators worldwide.

“The Confucius Institute at Xavier has had clear impact on the internationalization of this institution. Through its programming, it has made Chinese culture and language available throughout this major urban region,” said Xavier President Dr. C. Reynold Verret.

Xavier’s Confucius Institute is part of a worldwide network of over 500 such institutes and more than 1,000 Confucius Classrooms. The University officially launched the Confucius Institute in October 2012 by partnering with Hebei University and Hanban/ Confucius Institute Headquarters of China. Xavier’s Confucius Institute is the first among the nation’s over 100 Historically Black Universities and Colleges (HBCUs). The Institute offers Chinese language instruction and promotes Chinese culture and history both on campus and in the community.

Since its opening, the Xavier Confucius Institute has made remarkable progress, enjoying steady enrollment in the Chinese language courses on campus. Currently the Institute offers Elementary to Advanced Chinese courses for Xavier students and provides Chinese language courses to thousands of K-12 students in the New Orleans region. These K-12 classes have received rave reviews from school administrators, parents, and students. Each year, the Institute offers signature programs that include cultural festivals, faculty and student exchanges with China, student study abroad in China programs, education delegations to China, and a distinguished lecture series. These programs are making a significant impact on campus and the community by broadening students’ international horizon, enhancing their global competency, and, at the same time, raising the community’s awareness of the interconnectedness of different cultures.

“Xavier’s Confucius Institute’s enrollment and attendance at cultural activities places it among the leading Chinese language programs in the U.S. South. The 2016 Confucius Institute of the Award is the hallmark of this remarkable four-year journey for both the University and the Confucius Institute,” said Dr. Yu Jiang, Director of the Confucius Institute at Xavier University.

Visit <http://www.xula.edu/confucius> for more info on Xavier's Confucius Institute.

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Dr. Anne McCall, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, proudly displays 2016 Confucius Institute of the Year Award which was presented to the University She is flanked by Dr. Li Xiaoliu, Director of the Confucius Office of International Cooperation, and Dr. Yu Jiang, Director of the Confucius Institute at Xavier.