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*Connecting Maine with China since 2001*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Portland Chinese School of CLCCM**

**---Bangor Chinese School in Portland Campus**

**BANGOR, Maine (March 12, 2012)** Jing Zhang, Executive Director of the *Chinese Learning and Culture Center of Maine (CLCCM)*, and Dr. Suzhong Tian, President of the *Bangor Chinese School*, are pleased to announce that their Bangor-based educational programs are being extended to four new locations in Portland, South Portland, Saco and Brunswick. The Portland Chinese School (PCS), a new unit under the Center's organizational umbrella, has been created to provide the Bangor School's successful standards-based curriculum in southern Maine locations. This will ensure high-quality, immersion-intensive instruction in Chinese language and culture for all ages and all levels with flexible class schedules. Instruction is now beginning in **April 5th in four locations: Portland, South Portland, Saco and Brunswick.**

CLCCM and its educational wing, the Bangor Chinese School, have built external support and partnerships with a number of organizations including schools, universities, businesses, private donors, non-governmental organizations, local government, state government, federal government and international organizations. A Bangor-based Confucius Classroom is being established following the visitation of a Chinese delegation to the Center and a number of Maine schools. Strong working partnerships have helped CLCCM expand its educational service mission and offer new services.

Dr. James T. Kenny, CLCCM board member reports, "Chinese language instruction within the State of Maine needs to keep pace with the State's business and commercial advancements in the global community. International trade is one of the fastest growing sectors of the Maine economy as the state currently ranks ninth in the nation's export growth to China."

Offerings at the southern locations will be school-year Chinese language lessons for people of all ages and all levels in the language. Summer learning programs, guided tours of China s and exchange programs, and assistance to schools in setting up Chinese program will also be offered in the area.

CLCCM's executive director, Zhang notes, that, "As Maine's largest urban area, Portland and its surrounding communities have been seeking high quality Chinese language instruction." CLCCM's Chinese School is prepared to help fill this gap. With ever-increasing communication and

cooperation between Maine and China, it is hoped that the Center will be an important player in building a bridge between the two countries.

The name "Portland Chinese School" was given by Mr. Eliot Cutler.

For more information about CLCCM and the School please visit:  
<http://www.bangorchinese.com/INDEX.HTML> OR <http://www.bangorchinese.com/Portland.HTML>  
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