



Media Contact

Patrice Scheyer

Director, Marketing and Communications

Tower Bridge International Group

pscheyer@tbiedu.com

Tower Bridge International Group, Wake Forest University and North Carolina Association of Independent Schools Announce Collaboration Project, to Launch in 2019

Organizations Join Resources to Develop Global Competency Opportunities

HERNDON, VA – February 14, 2019 – Tower Bridge International Group (TBIG), Wake Forest University (WFU), and the North Carolina Association of Independent Schools (NCAIS) last week hosted a Global Competency Summit. They announced collaborative effort to enhance intercultural skills and global competency, while building and promoting additional international educational research.

The program is comprised of two facets: the WFU Research Hub for Global Competency and a 21st Century Textbook project. The WFU research hub will be a leading academic center for research on helping international students succeed. It will, in part, be comprised of research liaisons who participate in focus groups, assist in analyzing student participant feedback, and publish findings on global competency and international student adjustment.

The 21st Century Textbook will use an augmented reality (AR) platform to deliver curriculum between U.S. high school students and Chinese middle school students. Teachers from participating schools will receive training and certification from WFU, built around curriculum developed via the new WFU Research Hub on Global Competency.

The program will use AR to bring teaching into classrooms connected around the world. Chinese students will have the opportunity to participate in short-term learning programs in the United States, coming full-circle with the American students they meet, virtually, and the content they learn through the AR platform.

“As research is developed in the field, we’ll have a much larger impact, benefitting international students directly, exciting educators, and making the related research available to schools and universities focused on developing global competency among international students,” said Dr. Kline Harrison, Associate Provost for Global Affairs, Wake Forest University.

“This partnership is so important to us because this collaboration enables us to focus deeply on the success of each student, providing several touchpoints and services along the way,” said Sean Chen, CEO, TBIG. “We’re devoted to delivering academic opportunities and helping students see beyond their own classrooms.”

“We’re able to leverage a pool of top-tier independent secondary schools and the brainpower found throughout North Carolina’s Research Triangle and the NC Innovation Center to source the research and academics that will lead the learning opportunities,” said Linda Nelson, Executive Director, NCAIS.

TOWER BRIDGE INTERNATIONAL

13861 SUNRISE VALLEY DRIVE | SUITE 400 | HERNDON VA 20171

703.429.4664 www.tbiedu.us www.newoasisedu.com



Dr. Nelson Brunsting, Director of Global Research and Assessment, WFU explained that the WFU research hub will give insight into how global competency develops, enable us to adapt and extend global competency within a U.S. high school context, create content for teachers' professional learning, to better support international students' social-emotional development. He will work closely with TBIG to develop the program.

The program is scheduled to officially launch in June 2019, with the introduction of research output and an AR workshop for participating U.S. schools, followed by activities that begin in the 2019 – 2020 school year. The collaboration identifies a path to continued student learning experiences based on global competency.

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ABOUT TOWER BRIDGE INTERNATIONAL GROUP, *FUTURE TOWER, WORLD BRIDGE*

Founded in Washington, DC in conjunction with New Oasis International Education, Tower Bridge International Group (TBIG) builds global competency between students, host families, secondary schools, and communities, through short and long-term educational programming in the United States, China and Vietnam. Aided by carefully planned curricula and student activities, the TBIG philosophy encourages collaboration and competition to challenge student assumptions on culture and the world. Through the power of international education, cultural awareness, global competency, and partnerships with U.S. institutions and school districts, TBIG promotes cross-cultural, international education and support, creating world bridges. For additional details, visit tbideu.us.

ABOUT WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY

Wake Forest University is a private university located in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, known for its small classes and faculty-student engagement. Founded in 1834, Wake Forest University is a private university located in Winston-Salem, N.C., with nearly 8,000 students from 48 states and 46 countries. For additional details, visit www.wfu.edu.

ABOUT NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS (NCAIS)

Incorporated in 1970, the North Carolina Association of Independent Schools (NCAIS) is a voluntary, nonprofit organization of more than 80 independent elementary and secondary schools located across North Carolina employing over 3800 teachers and serving approximately 38,000 students. The NCAIS mission is to strengthen and support independent education in North Carolina. The Association provides a wide variety of professional learning opportunities and cost-saving programs, encourages and facilitates communication among member schools and cohort groups, advocates for independent education in the public domain, and serves as a liaison with regional and national accrediting agencies, and the National Association of Independent Schools. For additional details, visit www.ncais.org.

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