

Dr. Dan Lumley-Citizenship

Many of us take our citizenship and its freedoms and responsibilities for granted, viewing 'our world' through the lens of Lee's Summit and Kansas City, and perhaps on occasion, Missouri and the United States. However, the 'world' as our children and grandchildren will know it shall have much greater boundaries. As such, it is important that our children and community see citizenship as a global responsibility, not just local. There are few in our community who have been as active as Dr. Dan Lumley with regard to advocating for global citizenship and expanding culture in Lee's Summit.

As Director of Curriculum for the Lee's Summit R-7 School District during the past 10 years Dr. Lumley's efforts throughout the District and the five communities that fall within its boundaries suggest his value for our students and patrons of the need to view individuals from a more global citizenship perspective. He worked tirelessly to promote foreign language instruction at all grade levels in the area of Mandarin Chinese.

Noting that in the future China would become recognized as an economic and social power across the globe, he worked to establish specific courses in the secondary schools, cooperatively establish a Chinese Classroom Teacher Exchange Program, provide Lee's Summit students staff and patrons China field trip opportunities and establish both in-district and out-of-district funding to support the Chinese Teacher and instructional program expenses. Dr. Lumley succeeded in capturing the enthusiasm and support necessary for this global citizenship approach to both Foreign Language and Economic Instruction, and as such, our students have benefited from four different Chinese exchange teachers to date.

Dr. Lumley continues to provide assistance to R-7 staff and at the University level for awareness and recognition of the value for a cultural knowledge of Chinese policies and practices. R-7 classes in this area continue to see enrollment increases, and Mandarin Chinese taught at the middle and high school level and upper elementary courses is in developmental stages. Thanks to his vision, thousands of students today have academic opportunities to expand their citizenship. We are grateful for his passion in bringing Chinese to Lee's Summit and expanding all of our horizons!