

Fruitful International Collaboration

During the first half of April, five early childhood leaders from the NOBO (<http://noboedu.com/en/>) Education Company in Beijing, China, visited Pittsburgh to learn about the amazing educational and cultural resources for young children and families here. The educators had opportunities for observation and dialogue in our school, as well as at CMU's Cyert Center, Pitt's University Child Development Center and Falk School, the Campus School and Early Learning Center at Carlow, and the Crafton Heights Community Preschool. The educators also met with leaders of the Pittsburgh Association for the Education of Young Children (PAEYC) at the Homewood HUB, Dr. Junlei Li from the Fred Rogers Center, and Dr. Robert Siegler from CMU's Psychology Department. They visited the Carnegie Science Center, Museum of Natural History and Museum of Art, as well as the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, Phipps Conservatory, Frick Art & Historica Center, and the Nationality Rooms at Pitt's Cathedral of Learning. Of course, no trip to Pittsburgh would be complete without a ride on the Duquesne Incline and a trip to Klavon's Ice Cream Store!



Special thanks to Lin Zhu, Samantha Huang, and Melissa Peng (Masters students at the University of Pittsburgh and volunteers at the Children's School) for the valuable translation support they provided throughout the visit so that our discussions could go into more depth than would have otherwise been possible. Undergraduates Yiran Buckley and Stanton Man offered a campus tour in Chinese. The visitors raved about the hospitality of their hosts, professor Yueming Yu, visiting scholar Yunqi Wang, and kindergarten teacher Donna Perovich. During the visit, we learned much about advances in Chinese early childhood education and discovered both similarities and differences in our approaches. We were inspired by the NOBO educators' recent unit on Travel and by their detailed documentation of their exploration. We look forward to future collaboration and potential trips to Beijing by some of our educators.