For Immediate Release

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IU Honors Program in Foreign Languages (IUHPFL) successfully launches inaugural Program in China:

Bloomington, IN--- Bright and early on Saturday, June 7, 2014, nine Indiana high school students departed for Hangzhou, China, with IUHPFL Managing Director, Stephanie Goetz, as the inaugural group to the Program's first site in Asia. IUHPFL Hangzhou-bound students hailed from Carmel, Culver Academies, North Central, Southport, and Zionsville Community High School, all strong supporting schools of the Honors Program. Nearly five weeks later on Friday, July 11, these same nine students returned to Indianapolis with a greater understanding of the Chinese language and culture, as well as a stronger sense of self.

“Establishing a Program in China has been the culmination of a project years in the making. We are proud of our first-ever Hangzhou cohort and all they managed to achieve during their five week stay in China,” said Goetz. “We cannot imagine sending a more qualified group of students to inaugurate the Program in Asia.”

Students spent five weeks studying the Chinese language in the classroom with two graduate instructors from Indiana University’s Department of East Asian Language and Cultures at No. 14 high school in Hangzhou. When students weren’t in class learning about Communication, Language-in-Use, and Integrated Chinese from their certified Chinese-Second-Language teachers, they engaged in activities taught by No. 14 staff members, such as Tai Chi morning exercises, practicing Chinese characters in calligraphy and learning how to play a Chinese instrument, hulusi.
IUHPFL Hangzhou students lived with host families during their five week stay in country. Students were able to explore Hangzhou with their host families and assimilate to the host culture by getting to experience shopping for groceries, visiting extended host family members, and enjoying the company of their host siblings.

Throughout the Program students, accompanied by their instructors, went on excursions to explore various other sites and territories in China, including trips to neighboring Suzhou, as well as Shanghai and the country’s capital, Beijing.

Throughout the course of the Program, students prepared a farewell show to put on for their host families and administrators at No. 14 high school as a way of thanking them for welcoming the students into the host culture. Officials from the Foreign Affairs Department (FAD) of Zhejiang Province also attended the farewell show, as they played a pivotal role in the development of the IUHPFL in Hangzhou. Goetz first met with FAD officials on her site visit to Hangzhou in November 2012, at which point they introduced her to No. 14 high school. Goetz said the collaboration with No. 14 was a natural one.

“We’re grateful for our colleagues at FAD for introducing our Program to No. 14,” said Goetz. “Given No. 14 is a key school at the provincial level, we knew that their standards and IUHPFL’s would align.”

With the successful completion of its first Program in Hangzhou under its belt, IUHPFL looks forward to sending larger cohorts to China in coming years.

IUHPFL Hangzhou Program participant, Rachel Krieger, of Carmel, Indiana said upon her return to the U.S., “I learned a lot about Chinese culture and got a lot out of the experience. Also, as this was the first year in Hangzhou, I think we demonstrated admirably that the Program can be successful in China.”