The Penn Literacy Network (PLN) is a comprehensive professional development/curriculum enhancement program based in the Graduate School of Education at the University of Pennsylvania. PLN has provided PreK-16 on-site, online and regionally-based credit-bearing and non-credit bearing courses, workshops, coaching and leadership programs to more than 37,000 educators and parents across the United States and internationally in the areas of reading, writing, speaking and listening, special needs, English as a second language, brain biology related to successful teaching and learning, mathematics, science, and technology since 1981. PLN’s evidence-based frameworks and teaching practices emphasize literacy-rich, evidence-based practices, engaged teaching and learning and creating co-constructionist, collaborative environments for educators and students to learn.

PLN founder, the late Dr. Morton Botel, was an emeritus professor at the Graduate School of Education for 40 years. He led the Language in Education division (now the Reading/Writing Literacy division) and was nationally and internationally known for his practical, and evidence based frameworks that form the core of PLN—The Five Reading Writing Talking Processes and The Four Lenses of Learning. Dr. Botel was the president of The International Reading Association (now The International Literacy Association) and a member of ILA’s Reading Hall of Fame.

Dr. Bonnie Botel-Sheppard has taught for PLN since 1981 and she has been the executive director since 1988. Morton and Bonnie, both University of Pennsylvania alumni and colleagues for more than 30 years were also a father and daughter team, providing inspiration and support to countless PLN faculty members, school administrators, teachers, specialists, coaches and parents, who have returned to their schools, their classrooms and their homes after participating in ongoing, literacy-rich networking opportunities that have literally transformed the way they teach and the way their students (children) learn. PLN’s underlying practices and theories focus on establishing meaning-centered, language-based, social and human classrooms through collaborative leadership team approaches that participants experience as a paradigm for classroom and home practice.

PLN’s China Program History
PLN developed the China Program in November 2015 with GSE alumna, Shuai (Michelle) Shen, M.S.Ed.’08, who continues to serve as PLN’s China Program Liaison and Advisor. The first China Program was designed for Pre-K-12 educators. It was launched in July 2016. Chinese educators from Shanghai, Nanjing, Beijing and Vancouver, Canada, participated in this three-month program with a 5-day on-site intensive course on the University of Pennsylvania’s campus. PLN got very positive feedback from the participants and they have inquired about advanced courses. PLN ran the second program in January 2017 during the Chinese New Year and the third program took place in July 2017.

PLN has helped the PLN Chinese educators understand and experience PLN’s frameworks, underlying philosophy and classroom strategies. PLN’s core text, *The Plainer Truths of Teaching, Learning and Literacy* by Dr. Morton Botel and Mrs. Lara Paparo (PLN’s Associate Director) was translated into Chinese in March 2017. The first edition of the bilingual version of *The Plainer Truths* was published in October 2017.
A sampling of PLN Chinese educators’ responses to the PLN coursework…

“The curriculum concepts have helped me open my mind.” “I’ve learned how to use the effective model of engagement in different classroom activities.” “You gave us a lot of methods to choose from for encouraging our students to learn well.”

During the same month, PLN provided two professional development workshops for Shanghai Minhang School District. Fifty teachers and school administrators in all subjects from grade 1 to grade 12 - as well as several teaching researchers from other districts - worked with four PLN faculty members in Minhang, Shanghai to re-imagine their classrooms and schools based on PLN's Five Reading Writing Talking Processes and Four Lenses of Learning.

What Is Unique About The Chinese PLN Program
- Working collaboratively with PLN- a 37+ year program with proven results
- Bilingual coursework (Mandarin Chinese and English)
- Gaining practical and hands-on teaching strategies to address and solve day to day teaching issues and problems
- The privilege of earning University of Pennsylvania continuing education credits
- Networking with seasoned educators from China and the United States in various subjects and grade levels
- Understanding the differences and similarities between Chinese education and U.S. education
- Local A+ school visits
- Opportunities for personal growth

PLN’s current programs that begin on the University of Pennsylvania campus for Chinese educators in the summer of 2018
- PLN 1 for Chinese Pre-K-12 educators (3 months). The July 2018 program is accepting applicants.
- Teaching methodology and educational leadership/management for K-16 educators (5 months). The July 2018 program is accepting applicants.
- PLN 1 for Chinese K-12 educators (3 months) in China. The August 2018 program is full.

PLN’s current programs for Chinese families
PLN Parenting Workshop for families with elementary school kids - Family literacy (3 days). The August 2018 program is still accepting family applicants.

How to apply:
Please contact PLN’s China Program Liaison and Advisor Shuai (Michelle) Shen at shuaish@alumni.upenn.edu for further information.

PLN welcomes individual Chinese teachers, schools, educational organizations, and school districts to apply for PLN’s China Program as well as to work with us on developing a school, organization or district based professional development and/or reform program!

Please send your request to Shuai (Michelle) Shen at shuaish@alumni.upenn.edu and we will contact you shortly.