Dear District Superintendents and Principals;

On May 12th at 2:28 p.m. local time, an 8.0 scale catastrophic earthquake hit the Sichuan Province, China, causing over 69,019 deaths and leaving approximately five million people homeless. The epicenter was about 60 miles west-northwest of Chengdu, capital city of Sichuan Province, where ASU’s partner institution Sichuan University (SCU) is located. Although the quake impacted Chengdu and SCU at a very modest level, many of the surrounding towns were completely destroyed and almost 7,000 classrooms are reported to have collapsed, killing more than 11,000 children and teachers. We are partnering with ASU and Sichuan University through our department’s international schools initiative to start an adopt-a-school quake relief effort to help communities rebuild schools and also to offer support for students and teachers.

I encourage you to consider how we can show support and help Arizona’s sister province Sichuan. Support can include, but is not limited, to fundraising efforts that involve our students in meaningful activities, connecting with classrooms or schools in and around the affected areas through “virtual” exchanges, projects that involve art or creative writing projects to offer hope and support to young people in the area. In addition we are also eager to assist other initiatives being undertaken at Arizona State University.
ASU Quake Relief Efforts:

ASU responded immediately to help with quake relief in multiple ways, including the following: 1) On May 15th President Crow appealed to the ASU community for donations through the ASU Foundation, Sisters of Sichuan Fund; 2) ASU Chinese Student and Scholar Association (CSSA) raised over $10,000 USD, which was donated through the China Red Cross; 3) ASU Confucius Institute supported fundraising benefits organized by its partner school, the Chinese Contemporary School of Arizona (CCSA) and the Arizona Chinese United Association; 4) ASU Confucius Institute initiated a project for local elementary school students to submit drawings and letters which will be compiled and presented to children in Sichuan; 5) ASU Libraries are partnering with the University of Pittsburg Libraries for a book donation drive; and 6) last but not least, ASU is working to create “Adopt a School,” K-12 partnerships between China’s Sichuan Province schools and us.

Thank you for your support in this worthwhile endeavor. I cannot wait to see all the good will that is generated from our schools. Please contact Professor Madeline Spring, Director of the Confucius Institute at ASU if you are willing to help. Professor Spring’s e-mail address is: MKSpring@asu.edu.

Sincerely,

Tom Horne