

**For Immediate Release  
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## **Durham Public Schools' Online Student Places Second in NC Confucius Institute Competition**

**Raleigh:** Andrew Sung, a Brogden Middle School student and current NCVPS Mandarin Chinese III student placed second in the NC Confucius Institute's Chinese Speech Contest. Sung a non-native learner competed in this inaugural competition at NC State University with both native and non-native Mandarin Chinese students. This contest provides a stage for Chinese learners around North Carolina to present their Chinese speaking and writing skills, increase their understanding on Chinese language and culture, and inspire more local people to study Chinese.

Dick McFall, distance learning coordinator for Durham Public Schools commented, "Durham Public Schools is proud of Andrew's success in his NCVPS Mandarin Chinese level III course this year and his Second Place finish in the NC Confucius Institute Competition on Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. Andrew's hard work and success in his Mandarin Chinese studies has helped create an interest for several Brogden Middle School students to take their first NCVPS Mandarin Chinese course during the next school year."



"Andrew Sung started his journey of learning Chinese with NCVPS. As a middle school student, he has been working very hard in the program. With his dedication and motivation, he has made great progress in learning Chinese online. I am very proud of his achievement in the course," states Henry Ruan, Sung's online Mandarin instructor.

The goal of the Confucius Institute is to enhance intercultural understanding in the U.S. by sponsoring programs in Chinese language and culture. NC State's institute will promote the mission through a range of educational and outreach activities to students, teachers, businesses, and community members. Students from NCVPS' Mandarin II and III courses were offered an opportunity to participate in this inaugural speech and writing contest.

For more information on the North Carolina Virtual Public School, visit [www.ncvps.org](http://www.ncvps.org). If you would like additional information on the NC Confucius Institute, please visit <http://www.ncsu.edu/oia/confucius/about.html>.

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