

Southern Utah University
Helen Foster Snow Cultural Center

[A] General Overview:

The Helen Foster Snow Cultural Center was established by the Utah Legislature in state statute [53B-36-201](#) during the 2022 general legislative session ([PDF](#)).

Southern Utah University celebrated the opening of the Snow Center in October 2022 and documented its opening with this SUU News article: <https://www.suu.edu/news/2022/09/helen-foster-snow-center.html>

What follows is text from the news article:

“The aim of the Helen Foster Snow Culture Center is to provide our region with opportunities to learn Chinese, promote citizen-to-citizen diplomacy, and provide cultural outreach opportunities for the region.” (Dr. Stephen Allen)

The Center is named after Helen Foster Snow, a talented journalist, influential author, lifelong humanitarian, and bridge-builder between the United States and China. Born in Cedar City, Snow left for China in 1931 and lived there through World War II. Her work displayed her capacity for collaboration across cultures, ideologies, and borders, and she was nominated twice for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Following her lead, the Snow Center will provide a place for teaching Chinese language and culture, China-related research, and Utah-China economic development. And in turn, will continue to build the rapport of SUU, Cedar City, and China.

“The Center will be a platform for cultural activities and language learning that promote understanding and collaboration. The Center will foster additional economic development links between Utah and China as well as Cedar City and China.” (Dr. Wen Ouyang)

[B] Specific Prompts from Commissioner's Office:

(1) Is focused on cultural education, celebration, engagement, and awareness (R131-4.1)

Summer Submission: Provides opportunities for students, employees, and community members for learning about Chinese language and culture, China-related research, and Utah-China economic development.

Additional Information: The Helen Foster Cultural Center Board is comprised of individuals from the community, campus, and local leaders. This helps keep the focus on ways to provide education, celebration, engagement, and awareness to the region served.

(2) Is designed to provide opportunities for all students to learn with and from one another (R131-4.2)

Response:

Snow Center offers a variety of programs which are open to all SUU students, all SUU employees, local K-12 students, and the Cedar City community in general.

- Through its *on-campus programming* (cultural events and celebrations), all students and employees are welcome to attend and learn more about Chinese language and culture. The aim of this programming is to allow anyone to learn more about Chinese language and culture.
 - SUU's International Affairs Office supports international students from over 90 different countries from all around the world, including China. International students from China are encouraged to engage with other students (from the United States and other countries) to share their experiences. In this sense, the Snow Center encourages all students to learn with and from one another about Chinese language and culture.
- Likewise, the Snow Center supports *Chinese language courses Canyon View Middle School and Cedar High School* (located in Cedar City, UT). This is a collaborative effort between SUU and the Iron County School District. As more students graduate from high school with Chinese language proficiency, SUU is able to offer additional Chinese language instruction and even allow students to earn a Minor in Chinese.
- Finally, the Snow Center offers *an annual cultural celebration in Cedar City* that is open to all students, employees, and community members. This annual cultural celebration includes music, dancing, art, food, and other cultural expressions. Local K-12 students (especially those who are enrolled in the Chinese language classes) and their families are invited to attend and participate in the festivities.

(3) Does not influence student participation in programs or promote differential treatment of students based on personal identity characteristics (R131-4.3)

Response:

The Snow Center does not promote differential treatment of students based on personal identity characteristics. The programming offered can be accessed by anyone regardless of personal identity characteristics.

The purpose of the Snow Center is not to serve any particular subset of students; indeed, the purpose of the Snow Center is to share information about Chinese language and culture with as many people as possible. Any student, employee, or community member who wishes to learn more is encouraged to attend the various programs offered by the Center. Events and programs are promoted to the campus and community at large.