Two years ago, St. Lucie County hosted a visit for RISE (Riverdeep Immersion Subject English) representatives from China. Observations of best practices and student engagement throughout the county made a lasting impression on our visitors. Our very own St. Lucie County educational leaders were invited to share their expertise in China at this year’s Sino-US Principals Summit. On August 14, 2013, Debra Snyder, Kathleen Perez, Principal and Assistant Principal from Palm Pointe Educational Research School, Lydia Martin, Principal of Southport Middle, and Liz Pruitt, St. Lucie County Math Curriculum Specialist traveled to China. They were given the opportunity to present to families of RISE students at several different venues. Presentations included sharing of best practices used in St. Lucie County Schools, comparisons between United States and Chinese schools and cultures as well as beliefs on how to prepare students to be productive, global citizens. The trip was hosted and funded by RISE, one of the premier children’s English learning companies in China.

More than 2,000 parents and distinguished guests attended the international summit that took place at Tsinghua University in Beijing, China on August 18. Our educational leaders spoke at the conference and participated in a question and answer panel. Observing teachers, offering feedback and meeting with all RISE Headmasters (Principals) were valuable experiences for our St. Lucie County leaders.

The Sino-US Principals Summit served as a forum where China and America’s principals discussed the differences between Chinese and American education. This was done in an effort to help prepare children to become international leaders and provide a global view for all educators.