

# Robert S. Edwards

Educator | China Trade Professional | Community Leader

Chattanooga, Tennessee

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## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Mandarin-speaking educator and former export manager with experience in China since 1983. Background spans language teaching, international purchasing and trade, and civic leadership. Author of the unpublished memoir *Pacific Covenant: A Journey Between Worlds*.

## COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

### President | Chattanooga Civitan Club

Civic leadership and community service in Chattanooga.

### President | U.S.-China People's Friendship Association Chattanooga Chapter

Continued service supporting friendship and understanding between people in the United States and China.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Tennessee Governor's School for International Studies | University of Memphis

Chinese language teaching, 1986-1988 and 2003; returned to teach in 2024.

### ESL Teacher | Hamilton County Department of Education | 2017-June 2021

### Mandarin Chinese Instructor | McCallie Middle School | 2012-2016

### ESL Teacher | IOR Global Services | 2009-2011

Assisted Volkswagen-Chattanooga employees with English language skills.

### Chinese Language Teacher | St. Andrew's-Sewanee School | 2006-2009

Established the region's first Chinese language program for middle and high school students. Led two tours to China.

### Special Education, History and English Teacher

### Hamilton County Department of Education | 2003-2006

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Professional experience and education

## EARLIER TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**English Teacher | Taipei Language Institute | Taipei, Taiwan | 1985**

**English Teacher | China Institute of Mining  
Xuzhou, Jiangsu, China | 1984**

## INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND PROGRAM EXPERIENCE

**Export Manager | Synair Corporation | Chattanooga, Tennessee | 1995-2002**

**Business Planning Manager | Wang's International  
Memphis, Tennessee | 1995**

**China Liaison | Wego Chemical and Mineral Corp.  
Great Neck, New York | 1989-1994**

**Assistant Director | Duke Study in China Program | 1989**  
Hong Kong and Nanjing.

**Assistant Manager, China Project | Buckman Laboratories  
Memphis, Tennessee | 1988-1989**

## EDUCATION AND INTERNATIONAL STUDY

**MA, Education | University of Tennessee at Chattanooga | 2004**

**MBA, Finance Concentration | Tulane University | 1986-1988**  
New Orleans, Louisiana.

**BA, International Studies | Rhodes College | 1983**  
Memphis, Tennessee. Varsity soccer.

**Mandarin Study | Mandarin Daily Center | Taipei, Taiwan | 1985**  
One year of Mandarin study.

**Chinese Study | George Washington University | 1984**  
Washington, DC. One semester.

**Duke Study in China Program | Beijing and Nanjing | 1983**  
Six months of study in China.

## FELLOWSHIPS AND LANGUAGE

Fulbright teaching fellow, 2005 and 2008: Beijing, Shanghai and Kunming, China.  
Functionally fluent in Mandarin Chinese: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.