



Taking a ‘Dynamic’ Ideological and Political Course: Integrating the Beidou Spirit of the New Era into Students' Daily Education and Management

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Abstract. The Beidou Spirit of the New Era is a spiritual treasure cultivated by China's Beidou builders through their arduous struggles and persistent efforts in the development of the Beidou Satellite Navigation System. Our team has integrated this spirit into the routine cultivation of students, adhering to the combination of small ideological and political classrooms with the university broader educational context. By embedding ideological and political education into students daily management and academic practices, the team has developed a series of distinctive Beidou-themed ideological and political courses. This approach has effectively addressed the limitations of traditional ideological and political education, such as abstract content, monotonous forms, and insufficient practical components. Integrated into the university's holistic ideological and political education system featuring ‘proactive ideological and political education and integrated talent cultivation,’ these practices have enhanced students ideological awareness and collective honor, and significantly strengthened their determination to engage in Beidou-related development as well as their enthusiasm for scientific research.

Keywords: The Beidou Spirit of the New Era, Ideological and Political Classroom, Proactive Ideological and Political Education, Holistic Education for all-round Development.

1 Introduction

The fundamental question in education has always been: For whom do we cultivate talent, what kind of talent do we cultivate, and how do we cultivate it? If we compare college students to growing trees, professional knowledge taught in classrooms determines the thickness and height of the trees, while ideological and political education determines how deeply their roots take hold and the direction of their growth. Without deep roots, even the tallest trees cannot withstand storms. For college students in their

critical formative years, ideological and political education provides ideological nourishment to ensure their healthy growth and cultivate successors of the new era who possess great love, noble virtue, and profound sentiment.

As a military academy, the National University of Defense Technology is the cradle of military talents. Cultivating staunch flag-bearers and loyal successors is a strategic mission entrusted by the new era. How to thoroughly implement Xi Jinping's Thought on Strengthening the Military, foster virtue and cultivate people, and educate for combat readiness, arm minds with ideology, and enhance combat effectiveness has always been a research topic explored by the university and its Beidou Team. The Beidou Spirit of the New Era is a spiritual treasure cultivated by China's Beidou builders through arduous struggles and persistent efforts in the development of the Beidou Satellite Navigation System. How to carry forward and inherit this spirit and transform it into combat effectiveness has been an active area of exploration for our team.

However, when it comes to ideological and political courses, students first think of boring textbooks and overly abstract theories. Disconnection from students' real lives and a lack of practical supporting cases have become common flaws in existing ideological and political courses. Some teachers even use the same courseware for more than a decade, spouting academic jargon that students cannot understand, turning classes into lifeless rituals where teachers sweat profusely while students feel bored[1]. Yet, with the development of self-media, short films such as 'The Age of Awakening' and 'The Legend of Rabbit: Those Years in China' have become popular. We are delighted to find that college students now highly favor short films on Party history and political themes, with related topic discussions and Bilibili video clips reaching over 100 million views. Therefore, it is evident from the above issues that students do not dislike ideological and political courses; the key lies in whether we can teach them in a language they understand and a way they like. Good content and good forms always have a market. Thus, numerous domestic universities, including the National University of Defense Technology, are actively exploring innovative models such as proactive ideological and political education and integrated talent cultivation—through multi-dimensional linkages of curriculum-based ideological and political education, practical ideological and political education, and online ideological and political education—to truly revitalize ideological and political education and make it resonate with students' hearts.

2 Full-domain Connectivity: Integrating Ideological and Political Courses into Daily Practice

Since its inception, the Beidou Team at the National University of Defense Technology has attached great importance to its ideological construction. In recent years, guided by the university's holistic ideological and political education system featuring 'proactive ideological and political education and integrated talent cultivation', the Beidou Team has leveraged its distinctive strengths to design a comprehensive educational framework. It has extended ideological and political platforms from traditional classrooms to laboratories, training grounds and other venues, and integrated ideological and political

education centered on the Beidou Spirit of the New Era into students’ daily management, professional courses and collective cultural activities, forming a ‘three-in-one ideological and political education system’ (see Fig. 1). In a subtle and silent manner, the team has enhanced students’ ideological awareness and sense of mission through diverse approaches and channels, inspiring them to dedicate themselves to national defense and the development of the Beidou system.



Fig. 1. Three-in-one Ideological and Political Education.

2.1 Developing Ideological and Political Cases to Cultivate Patriotism While Imparting Knowledge

The Beidou Satellite Navigation System is one of China’s most monumental projects of the 21st century. It has broken foreign technological monopolies, provided an independent and controllable spatiotemporal benchmark for China’s national security, economic transformation and social services, and serves as a national strategic cornerstone for high-quality development.

In the course of system construction, senior scientists including Chen Fangyun, Sun Jiadong and Xie Jun left numerous touching stories and forged a spirit of scientific research characterized by independence, self-reliance and perseverance in overcoming difficulties.

Transforming these precious stories and technological innovation cases into vivid curriculum-based ideological and political resources can give full play to the power of role models, guide students to establish the ideal and belief of strengthening the military through science and technology, and foster profound patriotism and dedication to the nation.

Accordingly, in various professional courses offered to students by the Beidou Team, such as Principles of Satellite Navigation and Navigation Principles and Systems, the inspiring stories of scientists striving for self-improvement and leading their teams to break through blockades have been integrated into teaching, forming a series of curriculum-based ideological and political cases. These cases enable students to appreciate the pioneering spirit of scientists while acquiring professional knowledge, and

inspire their patriotic enthusiasm and passion for engaging in national defense construction through exemplary power.[2]

For instance, when introducing the three-step development strategy of the Beidou Navigation System, emphasis is placed on Academician Chen Fangyun and his dual-satellite positioning theory proposed in light of China's actual national conditions.

Through this case, students can learn Academician Chen's pragmatic and truth-seeking scientific spirit, which solved the problem of "from scratch" at minimal cost, and understand that engineering projects must be based on reality and carried out within our capacity.

Meanwhile, by learning how Academician Chen broke with conventional thinking and independently created the 'dual-satellite rapid positioning and communication system' when mature regional navigation solutions were unavailable abroad, pioneering a unique technological path for Chinese Beidou, students are nurtured with the pioneering spirit of daring to be pioneers and pursuing independent innovation. At present, such ideological and political cases are incorporated into every course offered by the team, with relevant examples illustrated in Fig. 2. To accelerate the integration of scientific research achievements and ideological and political cases into classroom teaching, the team has developed nearly 100 such cases to date.

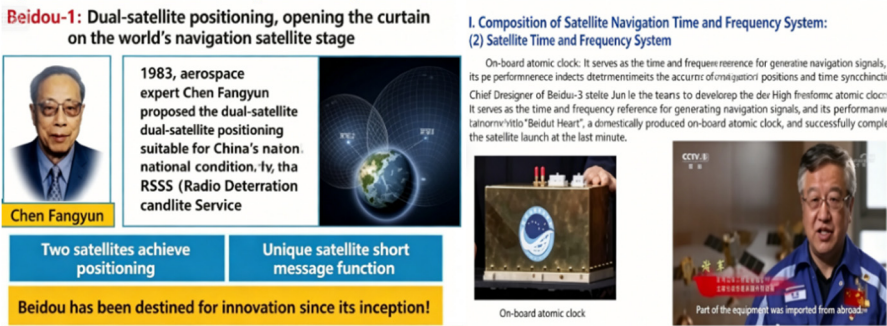


Fig. 2. The Example Bringing Ideological and Political Cases to Class. (a) Ideological and Political Case of Dual-Satellite Positioning. (b) Ideological and Political Case of Domestic Spaceborne Atomic Clock.

2.2 Experiencing the Beidou Spirit of the New Era in Collective Cultural Activities

In addition to integrating ideological and political education into professional courses to subtly enhance students' ideological awareness alongside academic learning, we have also embedded such education into students' daily collective cultural activities.

The year 2025 marked the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Beidou Team at the National University of Defense Technology. To commemorate this special occasion and further strengthen the university's highland cultural development, the team produced and staged the heartfelt ideological and political course drama Guiding the Voyage with Starlight: The Beidou Spirit. This drama is also one of a series of ideological and political short plays created by the university to promote its distinctive spiritual

culture, including the Ha Jun Gong Spirit, the Galaxy Spirit, the Beidou Spirit, and the “Four Nos” Spirit. Centered closely on the Beidou Spirit of the New Era—independent innovation, openness and integration, unity as one, and pursuit of excellence—the play opens with a scene in which three doctoral students from the Beidou Team volunteer to embark on a path of technological innovation.

It then presents the emotional journey of Beidou development through narratives delivered by faculty members, students, and staff across three generations: senior, middle-aged, and young. It reflects how, in the face of blockades on key core technologies, Beidou researchers overcame hardships, put national interests above personal ones, integrated individual ideals into national needs, and forged this monumental national strategic asset through independent breakthroughs and open cooperation. The performance scene is illustrated in Fig. 3.

This ideological and political short play not only inspired profound respect for the Beidou Team among students but also served as a spiritual purification, sharpening their sense of mission. After the performance, students expressed their resolve to take the Beidou Spirit as their guiding beacon, living up to the times and their youth. The PLA Daily praised this ideological and political course as a core practical measure for the university to develop distinctive ideological and political courses and carry forward the Beidou Spirit.[3] By concretely embodying the core connotations of the Beidou Spirit, the play helps students establish correct values, gather the strength to serve the country through science and technology, and has become an important vehicle for the university to deepen ideological and political education and fulfill the fundamental task of fostering virtue through education.



Fig. 3. The Beidou Ideological and Political Short Play

2.3 Integrating Ideological and Political Education into Daily Life to Inspire Students' Enthusiasm for Scientific Research

Ehly believes that educators should focus on guiding and motivating students to learn, rather than being confined to teaching narrow curricula that many students forget upon graduation[4]. In response to the problems of dull daily ideological and political courses that fail to resonate deeply with students, the Navigation Center emphasizes the guidance and inspiration of students' ideology. They integrate ideological and political education into daily management and scientific research, embedding such education into daily life and nurturing growth through routine practices. It has cultivated conduct and

discipline through strict management, and guided student development through scientific administration. We promote the collaborative education mechanism between supervisors and counselors, and break down the fragmented situation where 'ideological and political work is separated from daily management'[5]. Relying on major scientific research platforms and key research projects, the center has tempered students' patriotism in serving the country through science and technology and their innovative spirit in the practice of scientific and technological innovation.

Through these measures, the team has become the only institution in China undertaking the development of core system architecture, key satellite payloads, main operation and control systems, and testing equipment all at the same time. Furthermore, the team has played an indispensable role in tackling key technical problems at every stage of the Beidou system construction, yielding fruitful achievements over its 30 years of establishment. The team has successively received numerous honors, including one Grand Prize and one Second Prize of the National Science and Technology Progress Award, seven First Prizes and nine Second Prizes of military and provincial-level Science and Technology Progress Awards, as well as more than a hundred authorized national invention patents and national defense patents. Over the 30 years since its founding, a succession of faculty members and students who practice the Beidou Spirit through concrete actions have emerged from the team.

3 Conclusion

In an era of rapid development of the internet and artificial intelligence, students have increasingly higher demands for ideological and political courses. This requires teachers and universities to break away from the traditional "one-way lecturing" model and establish a new ideological and political education system.

This paper discusses the integration of ideological and political cases into classrooms, the embedding of ideological and political education into cultural activities, daily study, research and management, which can provide reference for other relevant teams.

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