

Little Red Classrooms: Young Envoys Scholarship Program

08/13/2026

INVESTIGATIONS

SUMMARY

For decades, the Chinese government and its affiliates have been engaged in a global soft power campaign called the 'Belt and Road Initiative' designed to advance the People's Republic of China's (PRC) political and cultural agenda. This ongoing Initiative includes various forms of programming intentionally aimed at American students from K-12 through university level meant to influence how youth in the United States view China.

In 2023, Defending Education released a report titled [Little Red Classrooms: China's Infiltration of American K-12 Schools](#) which exposed how the PRC's Ministry of Education and proxies fostered relationships with American K-12 schools and school districts to influence perceptions of the Asian nation. Through what the Ministry called "Confucius Institutes" (university level) and "Confucius Classrooms" (K-12), the PRC sponsored trips to China, funded entire university Confucius programs, and provided course textbooks and small grants to K-12 schools.

While Confucius programming appears to have ceased operation at the majority of participating universities and K-12 schools following pressure from the federal government, another project seems to have popped up in its place. The Young Envoys Scholarship (YES) program, run by the China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE), states that it facilitates study abroad opportunities for American

youth “to deepen and expand cross-cultural understanding among countries.” CEAIE notes on its Chinese website that it is guided by “Marxism-Leninism” and Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism and “always adhere to the leadership of the Party and integrate the Party’s work into the entire process of the association’s operation and development.”

This follow up report to *Little Red Classrooms* is intended to highlight the ongoing efforts of PRC and CCP linked organizations to influence American students’ perceptions of the communist country. This report includes over 83 universities and 27 K-12 schools spanning 30 states that have been involved in the YES program and includes links to newsletters that feature glowing responses from those who benefitted from the PRC fully funded experience.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Program Background

- In November 2023, Chinese President Xi Jinping [invited](#) 50,000 U.S. students to study abroad in China over the next five years as part of an initiative called the Young Envoys Scholarship (YES) program.
- The YES program is [run](#) by the China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE), an organization guided by “Marxism-Leninism” and Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism.
 - CEAIE [vows](#) to “always adhere to the leadership of the Party and integrate the Party’s work into the entire process of the association’s operation and development.”
 - U.S. lawmakers have [identified](#) CEAIE as part of China’s “[United Front](#)” system, an international influence operation

aimed at neutralizing opposition to CCP policy.

- CEAIE's [leadership](#) includes numerous Communist Party officials. Its Secretary General, [Yang Jun](#), has [pledged](#) to "strengthen the comprehensive and strict governance of the Party."
- *The Diplomat* recently [noted](#) that these U.S.-China exchanges "serve a political function" for China as "sponsored, carefully narrated visits attached to institutions and trumpeted in official state media accounts, often in ways that serve Chinese cultural diplomacy interests."
- In 2025, Rep. John Moolenaar (R-MI) wrote letters to local school leaders [warning](#) that "student trips to China, funded by CCP-affiliated organizations, serve as propaganda and influence operations rather than genuine cultural exchanges."
- The YES program is [sponsored](#) by organizations and businesses with concerning links to the CCP, including the United States Heartland China Association ([USHCA](#)); the U.S.-China Business Council ([USCBC](#)); and [Wanxiang Group](#).

United States Involvement

- Roughly 83 universities and 27 K-12 schools have been documented as participating in China's Young Envoys Scholarship (YES) program.
- Several university trips involved direct engagement with United Front-linked or state propaganda bodies, including a University of Chicago delegation [visiting](#) the Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and a Columbia University delegation [attending](#) a trip organized by the China-United States Exchange Foundation.
- Muscatine High School's 2024 trip was personally [arranged](#) by Xi Jinping, who

wrote to a student calling her his “friend.”
Muscatine students in turn gifted Xi a
flag reading, “Grandpa Xi, Here We Are.”

- The trip was fully funded by the Chinese government and prompted Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks to call it “a national security concern” reflecting “the CCP’s widespread influence across the U.S.”
- Lincoln High School in Washington has a long-running relationship with Xi Jinping, who visited the school in 2015 and invited 118 students/teachers to China; YES materials feature students calling themselves a “China fan” and praising Xi’s messages as “heartwarming.”
- Indiana University’s 2025 exchange partner, Xi’an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, was flagged in a 2025 Australian Strategic Policy Institute report for ties to sanctioned, Russia-linked, and military/critical-technology-connected entities.
- Carleton College promoted a student’s positive experience at Beijing Normal University, a school the *New York Times* reported has a “malicious tip-off” culture in which students inform on professors who stray from CCP narratives, and where a professor was previously fired for criticizing Mao and praising Western civilization.

YOUNG ENVOYS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE)

The Young Envoys Scholarship (YES) program was founded in 2024 is operated by the China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE). In November 2023 in San Francisco, Chinese President Xi

Jinping [invited](#) 50,000 U.S. students to study abroad in China over the next five years as part of an initiative called the Young Envoys Scholarship (YES) program.

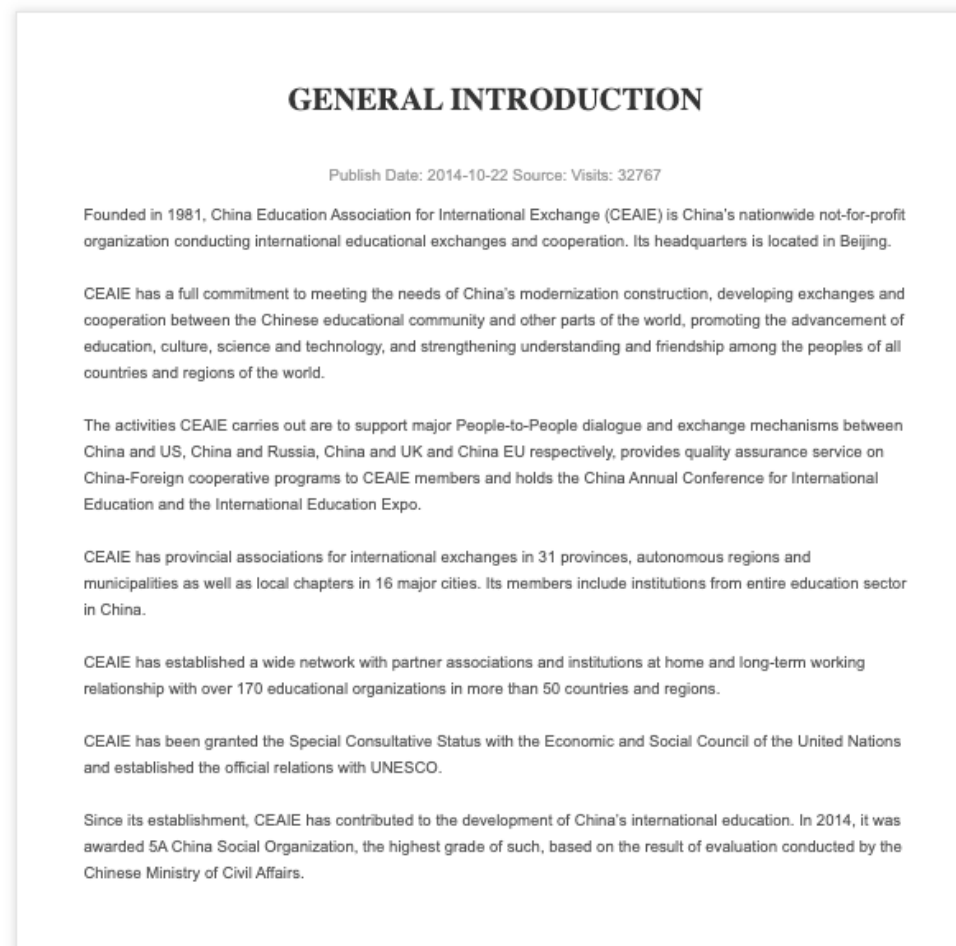
The YES program [says](#) international exchanges are a “key pillar and powerful enabler to deepen and expand cross-cultural understanding among countries” that “provide a nurturing environment for young people to move and see the world.” The Chinese Embassy has [waived](#) visa processing fees for YES program participants.



On its English language site, the CEAIE [describes](#) itself as China’s “nationwide not-for-profit organization conducting international educational exchanges and cooperation” aimed at “[strengthening](#) understanding and friendship among the peoples of all countries and regions of the world.” In addition to China-U.S. exchanges, CEAIE [supports](#) exchange programs with Russia, the UK, and the EU.

CEAIE oversees 31 provincial [associations](#), local chapters in 16 major cities, and its members include institutions from the “entire education sector in China.” CEAIE has “[established](#) a wide network with partner associations and institutions at home and

long-term working relationship with over 170 educational organizations in more than 50 countries and regions.” CEAIE says it is “committed to [enhancing](#) its soft power through more engagements in bilateral and multilateral cooperation.”



In [2014](#), “presidents and senior administrators from eight American Historically Black Colleges & Universities signed an MOU” with CEAIE to implement a “1,000-scholarship award initiative.” The press release noted that the “HBCU trip to China is the culmination of the collective works of the Chinese government and the China-U.S. Exchange Foundation (CUSEF)” which “hosted and organized the first meeting of the HBCUs with Vice Premier Liu during the HBCU’s first visit to China in September 2013.”



White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities

U.S. Department of Education

[Home](#)[Policy](#)[Programs](#)[Projects](#)[FY26 HBCU Plans](#)

PRESS RELEASE: Chinese Government signs MOU with Historically Black Colleges & Universities in Beijing Today

Chinese Government signs Memorandum of Understanding with Historically Black Colleges & Universities in Beijing Today

HBCUs and Chinese universities meet to discuss implementation of 1,000 scholarships for HBCU students to study in China

(BEIJING) – A delegation of presidents and senior administrators from eight American Historically Black Colleges & Universities signed an MOU today with the China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE), China’s nationwide nonprofit organization conducting international educational exchanges and cooperation on behalf of the Ministry of Education.

The delegation also participated in the HBCUs-Chinese Universities Roundtable where they engaged in dialogue with their Chinese university counterparts to discuss mutually agreed upon processes for implementing the 1,000-scholarship award initiative.

Chinese Communist Party (CCP) Ideology at CEAIE

On its Chinese language site, the CEAIE [says](#) its purpose is to “take Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory ... and Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era as its guiding ideology and action guide.”

The CEAIE [vows](#) to “always adhere to the leadership of the Party and integrate the Party’s work into the entire process of the association’s operation and development.”

association
Overview
Articles of Association
lead
Past Presidents
Major Events
Secretariat
Affiliated Unit
branch offices

Charter of the China Education Association for International Exchange

(Adopted by the Second Session of the Seventh Members' Representative Assembly on October 16, 2019)

Chapter 1 General Provisions

Article 1 The name of this association is China Education Association for International Exchange (hereinafter referred to as the Association), and its English translation is China Education Association for International Exchange, abbreviated as CEAIE.

Article 2 This association is a nationwide, industry-specific, non-profit social organization voluntarily formed by schools, social organizations, related enterprises and institutions, and individuals engaged in international educational exchanges.

Article 3 The purpose of this association is to take Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory, the important thought of "Three Represents," the Scientific Outlook on Development, and Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era as its guiding ideology and action guide, always adhere to the leadership of the Party, and integrate the Party's work into the entire process of the association's operation and development. It aims to cooperate with the implementation of the national strategy of "rejuvenating the country through science and education" and the development of Sino-foreign cultural exchanges, adapt to the needs of my country's socialist modernization, meet the requirements of providing education that satisfies the people, represent the Chinese education community in carrying out non-governmental educational exchanges and cooperation with education communities in other countries (regions), actively promote the development of education, science, and culture, and enhance understanding and friendship among the people of different countries (regions).

CEAIE “adheres to the overall leadership of the Communist Party of China ... carries out Party activities and provides necessary conditions for the activities of Party organizations.”

Article 4 This Association adheres to the overall leadership of the Communist Party of China, establishes organizations of the Communist Party of China in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Communist Party of China, carries out Party activities, and provides necessary conditions for the activities of Party organizations.

Article 5 This association accepts the business guidance and supervision of the Ministry of Education, the competent authority, and the Ministry of Civil Affairs, the registration and management authority for social organizations.

Article 6 The address of this Association is located in Beijing.

CEAIE adds that it “implements the Party's line, principles, and policies, leads mass organizations such as trade unions and the Communist Youth League, educates and manages Party members, guides the masses, unites and rallies foreign affairs workers, and promotes the development of the cause.”

Section 4 Person in Charge

Article 26 The responsible persons of this association, including the president, vice presidents, and secretary-general, shall meet the following qualifications:

- (i) Upholds the Party's line, principles, and policies, and possesses sound political qualities;
- (ii) It has a significant influence in the education sector;
- (iii) The maximum age for holding the position is 70 years old, and the Secretary-General shall be

U.S. lawmakers have described CEAIE as an element of China’s “United Front” system – an international influence operation that aims to co-opt and neutralize sources of potential opposition to the policies and authority of the CCP.

In 2025, Rep. John Moolenaar (R-MI) wrote letters to local school leaders warning that “student trips to China, funded by CCP-affiliated organizations, serve as propaganda and influence operations rather than genuine cultural exchanges.” Moolenaar specifically noted that organizations like CEAIE have been “publicly identified by U.S. intelligence agencies as CCP front groups tasked with advancing Beijing’s United Front work, which seeks to co-opt local leaders and neutralize opposition to CCP policies.”

In 2018, the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission noted that United Front work often operates through “connections that are difficult to [publicly] prove ... making those who seek to identify the negative effects of such influence vulnerable to accusations of prejudice.”

JOHN MOOLENAAR, MICHIGAN
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ROB WITTMAN, VIRGINIA
ANDY BARR, KENTUCKY
DAN NEWHOUSE, WASHINGTON
DARIN LAHOOD, ILLINOIS
NEAL DUNN, FLORIDA
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CARLOS GIMENEZ, FLORIDA
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NATHANIEL MORAN, TEXAS
ZACH NUNN, IOWA



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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August 18, 2025

Marc Elrich
Executive of Montgomery County
Isiah “Ike” Leggett Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Mr. Elrich,

It has come to my attention that students in Maryland have been targeted for influence operations by an organization affiliated with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in an attempt to influence American youths. This case involves a sporting competition and exchange in which 31 students from across 12 high schools in the Montgomery County Public School system participated in April. The trip was sponsored by the People’s Republic of China (PRC) government and the China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE).¹

While the CEAIE presents itself as a “non-profit social entity”² engaged in benign international educational exchanges, it conceals the organization’s ideological motive and its ties to the CCP from foreign audiences. Article 3 of CEAIE charter indicates that the organization adopts “Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory ... and Xi Jinping Thought ... as the guiding ideology and action plan,” and integrates Party work into the complete operational and developmental process of the organization.³ Article 4 emphasizes how CEAIE is subject to the absolute control of the CCP and that it would “adhere to the overall leadership of the Chinese Communist Party.” In pursuit of this mission and mandate, the organization established a party cell within the management to carry out CCP directives.⁴ Notably, CEAIE’s English website omits both material elements of the organization’s subordinate relationship to the CCP and its role as the Party’s influence agent.⁵

¹ Maryam Shahzad, *MCPS Athletes Gear Up For Pickleball Trip to China*, MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY MEDIA (Mar. 25, 2025) available at www.mymcmmedia.org/mcps-athletes-gear-up-for-pickleball-trip-to-china/.

² Available at <https://en.ccaie.edu.cn/pages?columnid=70>.

³ Available at <https://www.ccaie.edu.cn/dist/#/us>.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Available at <https://en.ccaie.edu.cn/pages?columnid=70>.

Leadership

CEAIE's [leadership](#) consists of a president, multiple vice presidents, and a secretariat office. CEAIE's [president](#), Liu Limin, is the former Vice Minister of Education of China and a current [member](#) of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), the highest-ranking entity [overseeing](#) United Front work.

Dr. LIU Limin

President of CEAIE

Dr. Liu Limin is a Professor and Doctoral Supervisor. His current position includes the President of CEAIE, Vice President of Western Returned Scholars Association (Overseas-educated Scholars Association of China), Member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and Vice Director of Xianzi Zeng Education Foundation. His previous positions include the Chairperson of the University Council of Capital Normal University, Director-General of Beijing Municipal Education Commission, Director of the Education Inspectorate Office of Beijing Municipal Government, and Vice Minister of Education of China.

Dr. Liu, a well-known Russian scholar in China, has been engaged in Russian Languages and Literature for a long time. He is the First Vice Chairman of Russian International Union of Students. With his outstanding contribution to the research and promotion of the Russian language and literature and Sino-Russian People-to-People Dialogue, he was awarded the Russian Federation State Friendship Medal and the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Gold Medal by Russian President Vladimir Putin personally. He also won the Pushkin Prize, the highest award in the Russian language and literature.

CEAIE's [vice presidents](#) include the Party Secretary of Zhejiang University; the former Party Secretary of Fudan University; the former Party Secretary of Huazhong University; and a Party Member of the Chongqing Municipal People's Congress.

CEAIE Secretary General [Yang Jun](#) has [pledged](#) to "thoroughly study and implement General Secretary Xi Jinping's important thoughts on the Party's self-revolution," "further strengthen the Party's leadership," and "strengthen the comprehensive and strict governance of the Party."

Exchange Programs As A Vehicle For Chinese Influence

A recent op-ed in the Diplomat [noted](#) that these U.S.-China exchanges "serve a political function" for China and are not ordinary

study abroad programs, but “sponsored, carefully narrated visits attached to institutions and trumpeted in official state media accounts, often in ways that serve Chinese cultural diplomacy interests.” Chinese government officials have [used](#) U.S. students’ involvement in the program as a political messaging tool pushing carefully controlled narratives.

However, these exchanges also serve a political function that cannot be overlooked. The most visible cases are not ordinary study programs or college semesters abroad returning under a new label. They are sponsored, carefully narrated visits attached to institutions and trumpeted in official state media accounts, often in ways that serve Chinese cultural diplomacy interests.

According to the FBI, foreign nations like China “seek to [improve](#) their economies and militaries by stealing intellectual property from a world technology leader like the United States” and employ students to help achieve this goal.

Sponsors

The YES program is also [sponsored](#) by the United States Heartland China Association, which has come under fire for its [ties](#) to the United Front system, the U.S.-China Business Council (USCBC), and Wanxiang Group. Additional [sponsors](#) include Air China; Visa; UnionPay International; China Southern; Hainan Airlines; and Jiaxiang Education Group.



U.S.-Heartland China Association

USHCA [describes](#) itself as a bipartisan organization that aims to “build bridges and promote opportunities between the peoples of the American Heartland Region and the People’s Republic of China.”

USHCA has [come under fire](#) from U.S. journalists and politicians, such as Rep. Jim Banks (R-IN) and Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL), for routinely partnering with organizations tied to CCP influence operations. In April 2026, Rep. John Moolenaar (R-MI) [wrote](#) that USHCA “may be operating in service of foreign malign influence,” adding, “Heartland China’s Chinese partners include multiple entities that have been identified by the U.S. government as elements of the CCP’s influence and intelligence bureaucracy.”

U.S.-China Business Council

USCBC is a “nonpartisan, nonprofit association of more than 270 American companies that do business in China” and works to [expand](#) U.S. business opportunities in China.

In 2023, Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-WI) [condemned](#) USCBC for organizing a “welcome dinner” for Xi Jinping in San Francisco and selling tickets to Xi’s table for \$40,000. Gallagher [wrote](#), “It is unconscionable that American companies

might pay thousands of dollars to join a ‘welcome dinner’ hosted by the very same CCP officials who have facilitated a genocide against millions of innocent men, women, and children in Xinjiang.”

Wanxiang Group

Wanxiang Group has been [described](#) as the largest China-based automotive components company by revenue. Xi Jinping [praised](#) Wanxiang’s founder for being “consistent with the Party Central Committee” and said he “always actively implements what our Party committees and governments at all levels advocate.”

Wanxiang CEO Lu Weiding [said](#) in 2019, “Upholding our original aspiration and mission, every Party member must have a firm belief in Marxism, a steadfast conviction in socialism with Chinese characteristics and communism, and unwavering loyalty to the Party and the people.”

CASE STUDIES – K-12

Muscatine Community School District (Iowa)

Muscatine High School

In January 2024, the Muscatine Community School District in Iowa [announced](#) a group of 24 students and four educators would travel to China as guests of China’s minister of education and that the trip was fully funded by the Chinese government.

Chinese President Xi Jinping personally [wrote](#) to his “friend,” inviting the school to China for the exchange.

In November of 2023, President Xi Jinping spoke on his visit to the US about China wanting to welcome 50,000 US students to China over the next five years for exchange and study abroad programs. Muscatine resident and friend of President Jinping, Sarah Lande, wrote a letter to the President expressing Muscatine’s interest in participating in these programs. On January 13th, President Xi Jinping wrote back, inviting Muscatine students and teachers to China for the first exchange. Over the next few days, in collaboration with the Chinese Ministry of Education and the Chinese Consulate in Chicago, We were able to arrange transportation and accommodations for 24 students and four educators. The trip is fully funded by the Chinese government, and our students are there as guests of China’s Minister of Education, Huai Jinpeng. Students left on a charter bus this morning at 8:45. They will fly out of Chicago this afternoon and land in Beijing on Wednesday morning. During their trip, students will get to visit Pandas at the Beijing Zoo, visit the Great Wall, visit the Palace Museum, and visit a school in Shijiazhuang City. They will also then fly to Shanghai and participate in a Chinese American youth event and visit Fudan University and the Shanghai Tower. They will have the opportunity to visit the Yu Garden and Shanghai Museum and visit Shanghai Tesla. Throughout the trip, they will be participating in several youth events with students from China. They will return to the US on January 30th.

The invitation was [amplified](#) by Chinese state media, which said the students would “observe China with their own eyes, listen to China with their own ears and measure China with their own footsteps.”



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Xi Jinping Replies to Letter from His Friend Sarah Lande in the U.S. State of Iowa

Updated: JANUARY 10, 2024 16:39

On January 4, 2024, President Xi Jinping replied to a letter from his friend Sarah Lande in the U.S. State of Iowa.

Xi Jinping pointed out that since the establishment of China-U.S. diplomatic relations 45 years ago, bilateral relations have gone through the tests of winds and rains, and grown into a towering tree, bearing the fruits of cooperation and delivering benefits to both countries and the rest of the world. Achievements in China-U.S. relations are first attributable to the collective efforts of the two peoples. For China-U.S. relations to advance, it hinges more on the two peoples.

Xi Jinping emphasized that the future of China-U.S. relations depends on the youth. Citing the Chinese saying "Read 10,000 books and travel 10,000 miles," Xi Jinping expressed his hope that more young Americans will visit China, observe China with their own eyes, listen to China with their own ears and measure China with their own footsteps to have a glimpse of a real China in a multi-dimensional and comprehensive manner and build more bridges of the close affinity between the two peoples when he announced that China will invite 50,000 young Americans to China for exchange and study in the next five years. Xi Jinping said, he welcomes the students of Muscatine to participate in this project.

Xi Jinping emphasized that China is the largest developing country and the United States is the largest developed country in the world, the future of this planet needs stability and improvement of China-U.S. relations. China is ready to work with the United States to push for steady, sound and sustainable development of bilateral relations to bring more benefits to the two peoples, provide more public goods for the international community, and build a clean and beautiful world, featuring lasting peace, security for all, common prosperity, openness, and inclusiveness.

In a recent letter to President Xi Jinping, Sarah Lande, a friend in the U.S. State of Iowa, said, President Xi Jinping's speech at a welcome dinner held by the friendly organizations in the United States was widely welcomed and inspiring. The announcement of inviting 50,000 young Americans to China for exchange and study in the next five years was exciting. She hopes that Muscatine High School can participate in the plan. As major countries, the United States and China should work together on issues like climate change, food security, drugs and regional conflicts for the benefit of humanity.

Muscatine High School’s principal [said](#) the school was “very grateful to President Xi Jinping for inviting us to participate” in the YES program, adding that China “has truly demonstrated its warm hospitality and profound cultural traditions through this initiative.”

"We are very grateful to President Xi Jinping for inviting us to participate in the Sino-US student exchange program, and we feel deeply honored. The significance of inviting 50,000 students to China is beyond words. I believe China has truly demonstrated its warm hospitality and profound cultural traditions through this initiative. Young people represent the future, and caring for them is the highest form of love for the world," Fridley remarked.

In February 2024, Chinese Embassy coverage [detailed](#) how the students had given gifts to President Xi, including a “school flag with Chinese characters ‘Grandpa Xi, Here We Are’.” The embassy [added](#), “After the visit, the students of the delegation wrote a letter to President Xi, sharing their joy and happiness during the visit and thanking him for inviting them to China.”



After the trip, one Iowa lawmaker [called](#) for the cancellation of any upcoming exchange trips to China, stating, “The Chinese Communist Party is not a friend ... The Chinese have an agenda, and they are pushing their influence throughout the world.”

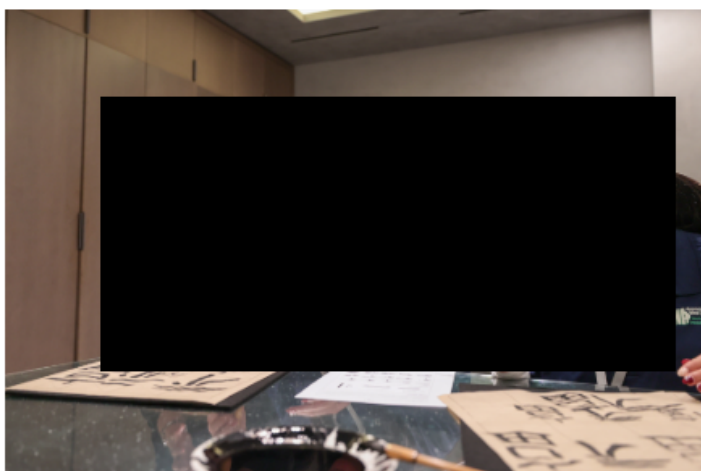
In a press release, Representative Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA) [called](#) the trip “a national security concern and a reminder of the CCP’s widespread influence across the U.S.,” warning that “school systems may be unaware of CCP tactics and the threat they pose to students and U.S. national security.”

According to a [press release](#) from YES, a group of 100 students and faculty members from Muscatine High School began another exchange trip in March 2026.

Updated: March 19, 2026

Release: CGTN

China and US teens deepen mutual understanding through study tour



As part of a campaign to promote exchanges between teenagers from China and the United States, a group of 100 students and faculty members from Muscatine High School in Iowa recently embarked on a journey to China. On March 18, the tour group arrived at the Shijiazhuang Foreign Language School and experienced courses on traditional Chinese culture, such as calligraphy and martial arts. Students from both countries interacted and took part in discussions on topics like artificial intelligence.

Intercultural Montessori Language School (Illinois)

On June 11, 2024, a delegation of 33 teachers and students from Chicago's Intercultural Montessori Language School [visited](#) Soong Ching Ling School in Shanghai as part of a China-U.S. youth exchange. The YES program [wrote](#) that Chicago and Soong Ching Ling share a "great love that transcends time and space" and highlighted Chicago's support for China during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The exchange [highlighted](#) the legacy of Joan Hinton, an American scientist who moved to China in 1948 with support from Soong Ching Ling and "dedicated her entire effort to the cause of China's socialist construction."

The Chinese Language

*"The world is learning Chinese
Confucius's words are getting popular
The world is speaking Chinese
The words we say
will be carefully heard"*

As the melody of the song, The Chinese Language, echoed, the Chinese and American students stood on the central lawn of Soong Ching Ling School hand in hand. Each word and note from their mouths revealed a deep respect and love for Chinese culture. When the choir reached the climax, their voices merged into a warm stream, touching every listener present, enriching the hearts of the youths from both countries, and establishing a cross-border friendship.

Students from both schools [participated](#) in music and performing arts activities, including an orchestra performance by Soong Ching Ling School students and a Tai Chi Fan demonstration by the American delegation.

In 2025, Roderick Shaw, head of the Intercultural Montessori Language School, [praised the YES program](#) to state-run media outlet China Daily.

Valley View Community School District 365-U (Illinois)

Romeoville & Bolingbrook High Schools

On June 12, 2024, delegations from Bolingbrook High School and Romeoville High School [visited](#) the High School Affiliated to Southern University of Science and Technology through the YES program, which organizers described as a "bridge for China-U.S. education and culture exchange." The Shenzhen school [promoted](#) its model of "international, digital, and innovative education," stating that the exchange would

allow Chinese and American students to “explore the frontiers of science and technology together.”

On June 12, two delegations from Bolingbrook High School and Romeoville High School in Chicago, U.S., visited the High School Affiliated to Southern University of Science and Technology (SUSTech) in Shenzhen, China. They attended classes, experienced Chinese culture, and gained insights into contemporary China.

This event was not only a friendly interaction between schools but also a bridge for China-U.S. education and culture exchange. As a high school featuring international, digital, and innovative education, the High School Affiliated to SUSTech would fully showcase its unique advantages in education philosophy and resources. He hoped that during this exchange, the youths from both sides would explore the frontiers of science and technology together, appreciate the charm of diverse cultures, and write a new chapter in the China-U.S. education exchange history.

American students participated in specialized courses and demonstrations including Wing Chun martial arts, flight simulation centered on China’s C919 airliner, and general technology instruction focused on laser manufacturing. Organizers explicitly linked the exchange to broader diplomatic objectives, expressing hope that participants would “inject youth vitality into a stable, healthy, and sustainable development of China-U.S. relations.”

The program emphasized long-term relationship building among students, stating that “the seeds of friendship have quietly taken root in the hearts of the youths from both countries and will grow and flourish.”

Tacoma Public Schools (WA)

Lincoln High School

In March 2024, 10 Lincoln High School students [visited](#) China as part of the YES program. Chinese media [reported](#) that students said, “China has always been a place that I have admired and been a dream of mine to go to” and, “If I could say anything to President Xi, I’d really just want to thank him for planting the seed of relation between Tacoma and China.”

TACOMA, United States, Feb. 2 (Xinhua) -- The campus of Lincoln High School in Tacoma of Washington State was brimming with warmth and enthusiasm on Tuesday as the students who will embark on a journey to China for an exchange program bade farewell to their peers.

Inspired and galvanized by the performances of the school drum band, the audience, from witnesses of people-to-people exchanges between China and the United States, to the youths who will soon visit China, became keener to cement the bond between the youths of the two nations.

In September 2015, Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Lincoln High School during his first state visit to the United States as Chinese president and invited young Americans to visit China.

The high school’s principal [said](#) the “firsthand experience of China differed significantly from what was learned from textbooks.” In 2015, Xi Jinping [personally](#) visited Lincoln High School and invited 118 students and teachers to [visit](#) cities including Hong Kong, Fuzhou, Chengdu, and Beijing as guest of the Chinese government.

The YES program [has used quotes](#) from Lincoln High School students to praise the Chinese government, including “I felt a warm welcome,” “President Xi Jinping’s message is very heartwarming,” and “I am a China fan.” One teacher [said](#) she “strongly agreed with President Xi Jinping’s message that ‘the future is in the hands of the youth.’”

In 2026, the board approved another trip to China which included partnering with “The Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), for touring purposes. CPAFFC is one of the major foreign affairs organizations of the People’s Republic of China.”

Department
Athletics & Activities

Board Meeting Date
February 26, 2026

Item Title
APPROVAL OF OUT-OF-COUNTRY TRIP
SHANGHAI, CHINA FROM APRIL 4, 2026

Recommendation:

The Deputy Superintendent, on behalf of the
Directors approve the Out-Of-Country travel

[APPROVAL OF OUT-OF-COUNTRY TRIP FOR LINCOLN
HIGH SCHOOL TO HONG-KONG, BEIJING, AND
SHANGHAI, CHINA \(1\)](#) **DOWNLOAD**

CASE STUDIES – UNIVERSITY

University of Chicago (Illinois)

In March 2024, a delegation of “33 young student representatives” from the Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago [visited](#) the Beijing People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and its affiliates [belong](#) to China’s “United Front” international propaganda operation, which aims to advance the CCP’s global agenda. U.S. officials are known to have been unwittingly “[coopted](#)” into promoting party narratives and burnishing the PRC’s reputation” through CPAFFC activities.

Youth delegation from UChicago visited Beijing

On March 11th, a delegation of 33 young student representatives from the Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago visited the Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (the BPAFFC). They arrived with many questions, eager to explore and understand the genuine thoughts of ordinary Chinese people.

"How should China and the United States build mutual trust?" "Faced with deep-rooted prejudice, how will China respond?" "Why are many Chinese people introverted?" "What efforts has the BPAFFC made to promote people-to-people friendship?" "What life experiences can be shared?"... Faced with a diverse range of questions, Executive Vice President Zhang Qian, Vice President Wang Yanxia of the BPAFFC, and Chairman Michael Crook of the International Committee for the Promotion of Chinese Industrial Cooperatives engaged in candid and in-depth discussions with the delegation. Both sides spoke freely in a cordial and friendly environment.

Students met with Executive Vice President Zhang Qian, Vice President Wang Yanxia of the BPAFFC, and Chairman Michael Crook of the International Committee for the Promotion of Chinese Industrial Cooperatives.

Chinese state media amplified the trip and emphasized the Municipal People's Congress passing the Shanghai Municipal Household Waste Management Regulations after listening to American students' suggestions on "how should Shanghai respond to climate change." A student said she was "impressed by Shanghai's active listening to citizens' voices" and "want[ed] to understand how Shanghai [balances interests regarding urban environmental issues] and whether it can be applied on a larger scale." Chinese state media said students "held discussions with students from the University of Chibasin on topics such as China's economic development, foreign policy, and China-US economic and trade cooperation."



Indiana University (Indiana)

In 2025, a delegation of 21 faculty members and students from Indiana University participated in a four-day exchange program at Xi'an Jiaotong University focused on “cultural heritage and sustainable development.” The delegation toured research facilities at Xi'an Jiaotong University, including the National Experimental Teaching Demonstration Center for Mechanical Fundamentals and the Overseas Dispersed Chinese Cultural Relics Digital Engineering Laboratory, a joint project with the University of Chicago.

The program included visits to major cultural and historical sites in Xi'an, including the Xi'an Museum, the Ming Great Wall, and the Emperor Qinshihuang's Mausoleum Site. At the conclusion of the exchange, Chinese and American participants jointly signed a commitment letter supporting cultural heritage protection and sustainable development initiatives at both local and global levels.

XJTU holds young envoy scholarship program for US students

May 28, 2025

Ⓐ L M S



Students from Indiana University participate in an exchange program at XJTU.

A delegation of 21 faculty members and students from Indiana University in the United States visited Xi'an Jiaotong University (XJTU) to participate in the "cultural heritage and sustainable development" special exchange and study program from May 21 to 24.

A 2025 [report](#) by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute alleged that Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University maintains relationships with entities subject to U.S. and EU sanctions, including a China-Russia cooperation center and research collaborations involving organizations tied to military and critical technology sectors.

The [report highlighted](#) that XJTU's Centre for China-Russia Humanitarian Cooperation and Development is co-led by Artem Semenov, who is affiliated with Rossotrudnichestvo, an organization sanctioned by the European Union in 2022 as a vehicle for Kremlin "soft power and hybrid influence."

According to the [report](#), XJTU has pursued partnerships with blacklisted technology organizations, including the National Supercomputing Center in Wuxi and the Shanghai Institute of Microsystem and Information Technology, prompting scrutiny over potential links between Western academic institutions, sensitive technology research, and Chinese military-civil fusion activities.

Liverpool university's China JV has links to sanctioned entities, report says

Think-tank highlights how Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University has come under scrutiny by the US and EU



The library of joint venture Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University in the eastern Chinese city of Suzhou © Sipa Asia/Alamy

Carleton College (Minnesota)

In 2024, the YES program's website [featured a story](#) highlighting the experience a student from Carleton College had while studying in China during the summer at Beijing Normal University. In 2017, BNU [fired](#) assistant professor of classical Chinese, Shi Jiepeng, for "expressing views outside the mainstream of society," which included social media posts where he criticized historical figures like Mao Zedong and advocated for the adoption of Western civilization. The administration cited violations of political discipline.

Updated: July 21, 2024

Release: Xinhua

U.S. college students savor a summer of cultural exchange in China

Edward Hayward, a junior at Carleton College in the United States, has found a new favorite activity this summer: riding buses through streets of Beijing, the Chinese capital city, and enjoying the view outside.

"I am surprised by how beautiful Beijing is, and amazed by everything I see," said the 21-year-old.

This summer vacation, he is spending two months in intensive Chinese language immersion courses at Beijing Normal University under the "Young Envoys Scholarship" (YES) program.

"My Chinese has seen a level of progress I could have only dreamed of a few months ago," said Hayward, who has spent 10 to 12 hours a day practicing pronunciation, improving his speech and studying new words over the past few weeks.

[According to the New York Times](#), BNU has a "malicious tip-off" culture where student informers monitor and report professors for

straying from CCP narratives. The student's story was promoted by both [Carleton College](#) and the [Chinese Communist Party](#).

Professors, Beware. In China, Student Spies Might Be Watching.

By Javier C. Hernández
Nov. 1, 2019

CHENGDU, China — With a neon-red backpack and white Adidas shoes, he looks like any other undergraduate on the campus of Sichuan University in southwestern China.

But Peng Wei, a 21-year-old chemistry major, has a special mission: He is both student and spy.

Mr. Peng is one of a growing number of “student information officers” who keep tabs on their professors’ ideological views. They are there to help root out teachers who show any sign of disloyalty to President Xi Jinping and the ruling Communist Party.

In 2026, Carleton College [featured](#) a positive story by another student who studied in China and now claimed to “dream in Chinese.”

I Messed Around in China For a Month, Now I Dream in Chinese

23 April 2026

Nick Chou '28 talks about his unique month-long OCS experience on the [CET Beijing: Janterm](#) program.

Carleton's study abroad programs are good. Like, freakishly scary good. In my opinion, it's the school's biggest highlight. Almost every department has a program worth class credits, and if not, there's guaranteed a non-Carleton OCS (Off-Campus Study) previously done by a Carl you can explore. It's harder to find a student who *hasn't* done a study abroad than one who has.

This winter, I was in a peculiar situation. Having the term off, I wanted to do something other than sitting on my ass all day and sleeping. That's when I came across [CET](#), a language study abroad program, historically affiliated with Carleton and taken by many students in the Chinese department. Before I knew it, I had spent the entire month of January in Beijing, China, studying Chinese at a local university. Let me tell you, it was an *experience*.

Carleton College also offers the [Professor Qiguang Zhao Fellowship for Summer Study](#) in China which has the purpose of providing “financial support to low and middle income students participating in an off-campus program in China or related to Chinese language during summer break.”

Professor Qiguang Zhao Fellowship for Summer Study in China

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Professor Qiguang Zhao Fellowship for Summer Study in China

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Application Deadline: Monday, February 16, 2026

The Professor Qiguang Zhao Endowed Fellowship Fund for Summer Study in China was established in 2015 by Litao Zhang in honor of her husband, Qiguang Zhao. Professor Zhao, the Burton and Lily Levin Professor of Chinese, served Carleton for 28 years, launching the Chinese language program and leading scores of students to China on off-campus studies programs. Qiguang was a favorite professor of many students, teaching a popular spring course on the "Taoist Way of Health and Longevity," which included leading Tai Chi on the Bald Spot. He was the author of several books and many articles in both Chinese and English, but was especially proud of his *Do Nothing and Do Everything* book, which applied the principles of Taoism to modern life. Professor Zhao passed away unexpectedly in March of 2015.

Students supported by this fund will have the opportunity to study Chinese language, culture, and humanities, subjects that Qiguang loved.

Purpose

To provide financial support to low and middle income students participating in an off-campus program in China or related to Chinese language during summer break. Funds may be requested to cover travel expenses, tuition and fees for programs of formal study, and living expenses while in participating in the program. For 2026, the award will be up to \$8000, depending on program cost.

Columbia University (New York)

In January 2024, Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) sent a delegation of 29 students to China as part of the YES program. During the 10-day trip, "students interacted with think tanks, universities, high-tech enterprises and nonprofit organizations" and "were also invited to attend the 'Commemoration of the 45th Anniversary of the China-U.S. Diplomatic Relations'" at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse.

The event was organized by the China-United States Exchange Foundation, which U.S. officials have described as an "instrument of the CCP's approach to political warfare, including influence operations intended to shape Americans' views toward the People's Republic of China (PRC) government."

CUSEF

Home Who We Are What We Do Why It Matters Hong Kong Forum

Events and News

January 16, 2024

CUSEF Organizes First U.S. University Student Delegation to China in 2024



纪念中美建交45周年
Commemoration of the 45th Anniversary of China-U.S. Diplomatic Relations

中国人民对外友好协会
Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

中国人民外交学会
Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs

Elmira College (New York)

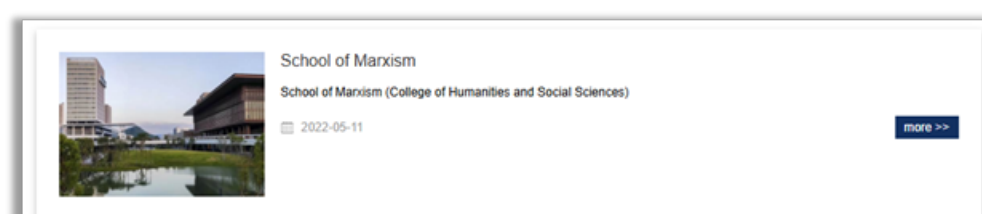
In December 2025, Elmira College [signed](#) a partnership agreement with Shenzhen Technology University to expand academic and cultural exchanges, including study-abroad opportunities between the two institutions.

As part of the agreement, Elmira College [announced](#) that its students would be eligible to participate in Shenzhen Technology University's Young Envoys Scholarship Program, a two-week summer program established and funded by China's Ministry of Education.

Elmira College [described](#) the YES program as providing scholarships for outstanding students, particularly business students, to travel to China for academic, cultural, and industry-focused experiences.

According to Elmira College, YES participants [visit](#) major Chinese technology companies such as Lenovo and BYD, engage with business leaders, and tour Shenzhen Technology University's research laboratories and technology facilities.

Shenzhen Technology University [features](#) a School of Marxism that [teaches](#) "the localization of Marxism in China" and "the theory of ruling party and its practice in the new era."



Trinity University (Texas)

In 2024, Trinity University [organized](#) a three-week Sino-US Joint Student Geological Field Trip in collaboration with students from Guizhou University, which "laid a solid

foundation for academic exchanges and cooperation in the field of earth science research between Chinese and American universities."

The "field trip ... provided students with valuable practical experience in exploring Triassic carbonate platform evolution, the end-Permian mass extinction, and the Triassic marine biotic recovery." It "also served as a precious opportunity to advance collaborative research between both sides." This trip "marks the fourth joint expedition organized by Guizhou University and Trinity University," with previous trips occurring "in 2009, 2012, and 2017."

Other schools involved in the trip included Chengdu University of Technology, Kunming University of Science and Technology, Northwest University, and the College of Resource and Environment Engineering of Guizhou University.

Chinese and American students "made like-minded friends and formed deep friendships" and "both American and Chinese students and teachers expressed a desire to continue enhancing exchange and collaboration in scientific research, teaching, and talent cultivation in future projects, to produce more achievements."

An American student said "Guizhou is truly remarkable ...I am grateful for the collaboration between the professors from Trinity University and Guizhou University, which has offered me new insights into Earth science. I like the inclusive teaching and ... I look forward to continuing exchanges and collaborative research with my new Chinese friends."

Another American student said "I have never left the U.S. before. Working and communicating with Chinese students has taught me so much. ... It is a wonderful experience. ... I hope to keep in contact with Chinese students and build a

lifelong friendship. I love China's beautiful landscape and hope to return someday to explore more."

Guizhou University Vice President Zhou Shaoqi said he "hopes to further [deepen the] cooperation between Chinese and American universities in the realms of research and teaching." Both universities "expressed their commitment to further deepen cooperation in the field of earth science, including research, teaching, talent exchange, and development."

Bates Technical College (Washington)

In October 2024, 22 faculty members and students from Bates Technical College participated in the "2024 China-U.S. Youth Cultural Exchange Program" at Nanjing Vocational University of Industry Technology. The program's theme was "Exploring the Ancient Capital of Six Dynasties, Experiencing the Beauty of China" with the "primary goal [of] strengthening student exchanges between Chinese and American vocational institutions and enhancing American students' understanding of and identification with Chinese society and culture."

A BTC student, "expressed his fascination with China's rich history and cultural heritage," and "recount[ed] his experiences to family and friends upon returning to the U.S., hoping that more American students would study and engage in exchanges in China."

"The camp helped plant a seed of love for China among the faculty and students" and "served as a bridge for communication between Sino-U.S. vocational institutions and fostered bilateral cultural exchanges and mutual understanding."

In a “thank-you letter” to the program, BTC president Dr. Lin Zhou “[praised](#) the meticulous planning and seamless organization which had provided an unforgettable learning experience for all participants.” Lin Zhou stated: “This [exchange](#) between American and Chinese vocational students will also leave a lasting and profound impact on the entire Bates Technical College community.”

City University of Seattle (Washington)

Between March 24 and April 1, 2026, City University of Seattle [sent](#) 12 individuals to Hangzhou and Shanghai at the expense of the “Chinese host.”

CityUniversity
of Seattle

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Young Envoys Scholarship (YES) Program



We're excited to announce the Young Envoys Scholarship (YES Program) will be offered again this spring! This program provides a remarkable opportunity for CityU students and their broader networks to experience China's culture, business environment, and cuisine firsthand.

As part of China's initiative to welcome 50,000 Americans over the next five years, the YES Program aims to foster cultural understanding and global engagement. Participation offers invaluable personal and professional development and adds a meaningful international dimension to any résumé or student portfolio.

The university [accepted](#) “U.S. citizens between 13 to 45 years old, including CityU students, friends, and relatives” and “participants receive[d] a 5-year F visa, with the visa application fee waived by the Chinese embassy.” Participants [attended](#) the Cross Border E-commerce & Digital Trade Bootcamp in Hangzhou, where they met with representatives from Alibaba Group.

The travel brochure [entices](#) prospective students to not “miss the chance to know the mysterious eastern country China.”



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[\(已压缩\) YES项目宣传册](#)

DOWNLOAD

UNIVERSITIES

Alabama

Troy University

- [2024 Sino-American CHEPD 1+2+1 Program University Presidents' Forum](#)

University of Alabama at Birmingham

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – July/ August 2025](#)

Arizona

Northern Arizona University

- In January 2026, YES [approved](#) the Jiangsu University–Northern Arizona University “Language and Business Marketing Theme School,” with a focus of “improving Chinese proficiency and practical Chinese cross-border e-commerce.”
- The program [seeks](#) to help students “gain a deeper understanding of China’s business environment and social culture, and building a platform for interaction and professional practice among young people from China and abroad.”
- Jiangsu University will [use](#) the approval as an “opportunity to further expand exchanges and cooperation with friendly foreign universities.”

University of Arizona

- In July 2024, the University of Arizona [accompanied](#) Rosemont Ridge Middle School and Oregon International Ballet Academy to “[visit] China for a cultural exchange” through YES.

California

California State University Long Beach

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – January 2025](#)

California State University Monterey Bay

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – May 2025](#)

California State University Northridge

- In 2024, California State University, Northridge [partnered](#) with Huazhong University of Science and Technology to form the HUST-CSUN Summer School, which brought together Chinese and American students for a month of joint coursework, cultural exchange, and mutual credit recognition through co-

taught business courses led by faculty from both universities.

- The program [emphasized](#) engagement through visits to Chinese and multinational enterprises, including Jianmin Pharmaceutical Group and Valeo's Wuhan operations, exposing American students to traditional Chinese medicine, advanced manufacturing, and Chinese corporate management practices.
- Participants [took part](#) in cultural-centered activities designed to strengthen, including Chinese language lessons, calligraphy, Jingchu cultural experiences, bamboo weaving, and tours of major Wuhan historical landmarks.
- The YES program [highlighted](#) student testimonials at the program's conclusion which described the program as highly impactful and encouraged broader participation by U.S. students.

East Los Angeles College

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – September 2024](#)

Harvey Mudd College

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – June/ July 2025](#)

Laney College

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – April 2019](#)

Pitzer College

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – August 2024](#)

San Jose State University

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – September 2024](#)

Stanford University

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – August 2024](#)

University of California, Berkley

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – June 2024](#)

University of California, Davis

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – June/ July 2025](#)

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

- UCLA and Shandong University [have collaborated](#) on the Waystation Initiative, which [supports](#) the “voluntary return of international archaeological and ethnographic objects to the nation or community of origin.”
- “The Waystation Initiative [comprises](#) a suite of programs and resources including a certificate for UCLA graduate students, community engagement workshops, a broad stakeholder network, and the development and dissemination of new standards for the voluntary return of cultural objects.”

University of Redlands

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – June/July 2025](#)

University of Southern California (USC)

- In March 2026, the USC Viterbi School of Engineering [advertised](#) an “exclusive exchange opportunity for American youth to visit Shijiazhuang Tiedao University, a leading institution in China’s High-Speed Rail and infrastructure sector.”

Colorado

University of Denver

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – September 2024](#)

Connecticut

Wesleyan University

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – July 2024](#)

Yale University

- From July to August 2024, Shandong University [hosted](#) a month-long

archaeology summer program series, which included students from Yale University, in which “participants discussed cutting-edge interdisciplinary topics on archaeological theory, economic archaeology, maritime archaeology, paleopathology, human origins and evolution, settlement archaeology, and discoveries in overseas archaeology.”

- Shadong University and Yale University [created](#) the “Joint International Research Laboratory of Environmental and Social Archaeology.”
- “These collaborative platforms ... [have played](#) a significant role in advancing people-to-people and cultural exchanges between China and the U.S.”
- From July to August 2025, Yale students “[visited](#) Bayannur, Hohhot, and Beijing, taking part in cultural and academic exchanges ... gaining firsthand insights into the grandeur, heritage, and vitality of Chinese civilization.”

Florida

Rollins College

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – January 2025](#)

Hawai’i

University of Hawai’i

- From July to August 2025, University of Hawaii students “[visited](#) Bayannur, Hohhot, and Beijing, taking part in cultural and academic exchanges ... gaining firsthand insights into the grandeur, heritage, and vitality of Chinese civilization.”

Idaho

University of Idaho

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – June/ July 2025](#)

Illinois

Augustana College

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – January 2025](#)

Northwestern University

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – July/August 2025](#)

University of Illinois

- In May 2024, “22 students from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign [arrived](#) at the Haining International Campus of Zhejiang University. Together with 7 students from the [Zhejiang University–University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Institute](#) (ZJ–UIUC), they embarked on a 14-day ‘Global Classroom Summer Program’ journey.”

Indiana

Franklin College

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – August 2024](#)

University of Notre Dame

- In October 2024, 11 University of Notre Dame students “[participated](#) in a week-long cultural exchange program at Zhejiang University of Finance and Economics (ZUFE)” during which “they explored the countryside, entered enterprises, and visited museums, learning about the beauty of Zhejiang Province and appreciating China’s traditional culture alongside its modern civilization.”
- In addition to educational activities, students [partook](#) in “a traditional form of Chinese Qigong,” which involved “deep breaths followed [by] slow and gentle body movement while the mind followed ones’ breathing, leaving beautiful snapshots of the moment.”

Maryland

Johns Hopkins University

- In January 2024, Johns Hopkins University [sent](#) a delegation of 17 students from its School of Advanced International Studies to Beijing and Kunming for one week.
- According to YES, “through these visits, American students [gained](#) knowledge on Sino-US relations and China’s foreign investment.”
- In 1981, JHU and Nanjing University jointly [established](#) the Center for Chinese and American Studies.

Morgan State University

- In 2025, Morgan State University biology student Rosie Reynolds was [awarded](#) a two-week trip to China through the YES program that will “allow Reynolds to explore current social, economic and scientific developments in China.”
- Morgan State administrator Megan DeVirgillis [touted](#) the award as an “excellent example of how our students are developing their own global competencies while advancing mutual understanding between communities.”

Massachusetts

Boston University

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – August 2024](#)

Harvard University

- In February 2026, Harvard University students [attended](#) the Zhi-Xing China: U.S.-China Youth Leaders Dialogue to discuss “Green Development, Technological Innovation, and Social Governance.”

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

- In February 2026, MIT students [attended](#) the Zhi-Xing China: U.S.-China Youth Leaders Dialogue to discuss “Green Development, Technological Innovation, and Social Governance.”

Salem State University

- [2024 Sino-American CHEPD 1+2+1 Program University Presidents’ Forum](#)

Stonehill College

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – August 2024](#)

Tufts University

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – August 2024](#)

Williams College

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – August 2024](#)

Michigan

Michigan State University

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – May 2025](#)

University of Michigan

- From July to August 2024, Shandong University [hosted](#) a month-long archaeology summer program series, which included students from the University of Michigan.
- According to YES, “the exchange of ideas [sparked](#) innovative views, promoting transnational and interdisciplinary interaction in archaeological research and strengthening the inheritance and innovation of traditional Chinese culture.”
- From July to August 2025, University of Michigan students “[visited](#) Bayannur, Hohhot, and Beijing, taking part in cultural and academic exchanges ... gaining firsthand insights into the grandeur, heritage, and vitality of Chinese civilization.”

Wayne State University

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – May/June 2025](#)

Missouri

Missouri State University

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – May 2025](#)

Northwest Missouri State University

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – November 2024](#)

Nebraska

Bellevue University

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – January 2025](#)

New Hampshire

Dartmouth College

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – July 2024](#)

New Jersey

Kean University

- In 2006, with the assistance of Xi, who was then secretary of the Communist Party of China Zhejiang Provincial Committee, Wenzhou University and Kean University formally [signed](#) an agreement about the founding of Wenzhou Kean University.
- In June 2024, Xi [communicated](#) with current and former presidents of Kean University, with Dr. Dawood Farahi saying he was “deeply honored” to receive President Xi’s greetings and said “It is the foresight of President Xi that has opened up the way for our undertaking.”

Princeton University

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – July 2024](#)

Rutgers University

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – August 2024](#)

Stevens Institute of Technology

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – August 2024](#)

New York

Cornell University

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – July 2024](#)

Fordham University

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – August 2024](#)

Long Island University

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – August 2024](#)

New York University

- In February 2026, New York University students [attended](#) the Zhi-Xing China: U.S.-China Youth Leaders Dialogue to discuss “Green Development, Technological Innovation, and Social Governance.”

New York University Stern School of Business

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – June/July 2025](#)

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – May 2025](#)

The Juilliard School

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – September/October 2024](#)

University of Rochester

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – July 2024](#)

North Carolina

Duke University

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – August 2024](#)

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – July/ August 2025](#)

Oklahoma

Northeastern State University

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – June 2024](#)

University of Tulsa

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – June 2024](#)

Pennsylvania

Curtis Institute of Music

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – June 2024](#)

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

- In 2024, a “delegation of 15 students and faculty from Indiana University of Pennsylvania [arrived](#) in China at the invitation of Beijing Foreign Studies University to participate in a two-week ‘Discover China’ Sino-U.S. students exchange program.”

Millersville University

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – November 2024](#)

Northampton Community College

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – July 2024](#)

University of Pennsylvania

- In May 2024, “45 faculty and students from the University of Pennsylvania and over 50 faculty and students from Southeast University [embarked](#) on a summer study journey ... connecting China and the U.S. across national borders, in the form of two-week workshops.”

Tennessee

Sewanee: The University of the South

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – May 2025](#)

Texas

St. Mary's University

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – June/ July 2025](#)

Utah

Brigham Young University

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – June/ July 2025](#)

Utah Valley University

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – November 2024](#)

Virginia

College of William & Mary

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – January 2025](#)

George Mason University

- In July 2025, at least one George Mason University student [participated](#) in “Chinese Law International Summer School 2025,” organized by the China EU School of Law at the China University of Political Science and Law. The program [comprised](#) 24 international law students.
- The program [promoted](#) “understanding Chinese law and experiencing Chinese culture” and “building bridges between Chinese and international rule of law.”
- The curriculum [included](#) “core courses such as Overview of the Chinese Legal System, Chinese Legal Culture and Traditions, Chinese Constitutional Law, and Regulation of Market Access Through Licensing in China: Legal and Economic Analyses.”
- Students also [visited](#) “various legal practice institutions, including Zhong Lun Law Firm, Xiaomi Corporation, and the Beijing Arbitration Commission.”
- A George Mason University student [said](#) he was “thankful for the support from the host school to facilitate his participation,” and that “the experience had far exceeded his

expectations, allowing him to witness firsthand a China he had only read about and to forge valuable friendships [and] expressed his hope to return to China in the future.”

University of Virginia

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – June/ July 2025](#)

Washington

Washington State University

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – November 2024](#)

Wisconsin

University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – June/July 2025](#)
-

K-12 SCHOOLS

California

Clayton Valley Charter High School

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – January 2025](#)

Irvine Unified School District

Irvine International Academy

- In June 2024, a delegation of students and teachers from Irvine International Academy [visited](#) Chengdu University of Technology Experimental Primary School, where the children at the school “warmly welcomed their American counterparts with beautiful chorus and dance” and “together, they learned to play a spear in traditional Sichuan Opera.”

Los Angeles Unified School District

John C. Fremont High School

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – September/October 2024](#)

Mark Twain Middle School

- In June 2024, a delegation from Mark Twain Middle School [arrived](#) at the “Western District of Chengdu Zongbei Joint Middle School,” where they attended history, mathematics, geography, sports, physics, and biology classes, participated in Chinese cultural lessons, and “used their pens to depict their visions of a beautiful future.”

Vaughn Next Century Learning Center

- In March 2024, students from Vaughn Next Century Learning Center [visited](#) Suzhou High School of Jiangsu Province, whose students “stepped forward to greet their American friends.”
- The YES newsletter [emphasized](#) that “our American friends savored the unique cultural meaning and spiritual pursuit that is so characteristic of the Chinese people.”
- American students were “warmly [invited](#)” to revisit Suzhou High School in 2035 to celebrate the school’s millennium anniversary and “enthusiastically chanted” the slogan “Together for a Shared Future!”

The International School of San Francisco

- In April 2024, 43 students from the International School of San Francisco (formerly the French American International School) [arrived](#) at Xidian University to begin a course on “Exploring Chinese Culture.”

West Contra Costa Unified School District

De Anza High School

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – September/October 2024](#)

Pinole Valley High School

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – September/October 2024](#)

Florida

American Heritage Schools

- In 2026, American Heritage Schools [sent a delegation](#) of 31 students and faculty to China as part of the YES program.
 - The 12-day trip [focused on](#) “high-level STEM collaboration and international diplomacy.”
 - Students [participated](#) in exchanges at Nanjing Jinling High School, Changzhou Tianjiabing Senior High School, and Changzhou Vocational Institute of Engineering.
 - The program [included](#) an exclusive tour of Li Auto’s manufacturing facility.
 - Participants [engaged](#) in extensive cultural and historical programming in Jiangsu Province, including visits to the Ming Dynasty City Wall, Confucius Temple, Nanjing Imperial Examination Museum, Yuejiang Tower, Nanjing Hongshan Forest Zoo, and Xuanwu Lake.
- The trip [concluded](#) in Shanghai with a visit to American Heritage Learning Center.

Illinois

Chicago Public Schools

Walter Payton College Preparatory High School

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – June/July 2025](#)

Maryland

Montgomery County Public Schools

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – May 2025](#)

- [Pickleball Diplomacy Links U.S. Students to CCP](#) (Jamestown.org)

Massachusetts

Phillips Academy

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – July 2024](#)

New York

City School District of New York

Albany High School

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – May 2025](#)

West Orange Public Schools

West Orange High School

- As of June 2026, a group of students from West Orange High School is [participating](#) in the YES program through South China Normal University, featuring “lectures, company visits and cultural activities across Guangzhou and Foshan.”

North Carolina

Wake County Public School System

Heritage High School

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – July/August 2025](#)

Ohio

Highland Local Schools

- In February 2025, the Highland Local Schools Board of Education [approved](#) a November 2025 student trip to China proposed by Chinese language teacher Sunny Zhang, with planned visits to Shanghai, Jiaxing, Huzhou, and Hangzhou.
- The program [included](#) a student exchange component allowing participants to shadow a Chinese high school for one day, providing direct

exposure to China's educational system and student life.

- Most travel expenses were to be subsidized through a scholarship from the China Education Association for International Exchange through the YES program, with participating students responsible for registration fees, visa costs, airfare, and travel insurance.
- School officials planned to take between 20 and 30 students with faculty chaperones, while Superintendent Catherine Aukerman stated that the China exchange would be done at no financial cost to the school district.

Oregon

West Linn-Wilsonville School District

Rosemont Ridge Middle School

- In July 2024, students from Rosemont Ridge Middle School, accompanied by other institutions, "formed a delegation [to] Zhixing China" and "visited Beijing Bayi School for an in-depth artistic exchange with the Bayi Dance Troupe."

Utah

Alpine School District

Cascade Elementary

- In May 2024, the Chinese government wrote that students from Cascade Elementary School had visited China in "recent months" as part of the YES program.

Washington

Steilacoom Historical School District

Steilacoom High School

- In March 2024, 14 Steilacoom High School students visited China in a joint delegation with Lincoln High School.
- Deputy Consul General Song Guoxuan, based in San

Francisco, “expressed his hope that they will embrace the experience with open minds.”

Tacoma Public Schools

Foss High School

- [Young Envoys Scholarship – July 2024](#)

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