

SUNY

150

CHINA

SUNY-CHINA 150 **Gesture of Friendship and Support from** **The People of New York to the People of Sichuan Province**

In May 2008, a massive 7.6 earthquake struck Sichuan Province, China, killing over 70,000 people, demolishing entire towns, and rendering 5 million people homeless. The State University of New York, strongly supported by Governor David Paterson, made the extraordinary gesture of welcoming 150 university students from Sichuan Province, to study at 22 campuses of the University at no charge for the coming year. As expressed by Governor Paterson, our mutual goal is to “provide these students with valuable leadership training to prepare them to return to China to assist with rebuilding efforts in the aftermath of the earthquake”.



This extraordinary gesture of friendship was made with the hope and expectation that the generous spirit of the people and institutions of New York would embrace these students and the opportunity that their being with us brings for cross-cultural bridge building. The quality of their experience depends to a great extent on your generosity. Your support of the SUNY China 150 Fund will enhance the education and the experience of these young ambassadors, developing life long friendships so vital in our changing world. Together we can build a strong bridge between New York and China, from tragedy to a bright future.

Your support of the SUNY China 150 Fund is 100% tax deductible. Please send contributions to:

SUNY China 150 Fund
c/o Levin Institute Foundation
116 East 55th Street
New York, NY 10022

Or visit our secure on-line giving site at: <https://sunycobleskill.yourmembership.com/donations>

Or call Kaitlin Gambrell at 212-221-8910 for details on SUNY China 150.

SUNY 150 CHINA

This initiative enjoys the personal endorsement of Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao, who will personally meet some of the students in September, and was championed by Chinese Minister of Education, Zhao Ji, himself a Ph.D. from SUNY's University at Buffalo, and US Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte. It grows from an extensive history of relationships built with Chinese institutions over 25 years, which will expand with the establishment of a SUNY office in Beijing. With this highest level support, the normally slow processes for exchange programs were drastically shortened, and the screening, selection and preparation of this group of 150 students took only five weeks. They arrived in New York City on August 15th, where they were met by their new campuses representatives, where they are now integrating into communities across the state.

“Thanks to efforts from the US government and people from different sectors, 150 students from the earthquake-hit areas are now studying at the State University of New York. I am convinced that when they return to China after finishing their studies here, they will be able to better help the building of their homeland and they will surely join in the endeavor to promote China-US friendship.”

- Premier Wen Jiabao

The 150 students from earthquake ravaged Sichuan were chosen after a careful review of their academic performance and English language proficiency. The participating students include 97 women and 53 men. Ten percent are minorities from the Zang (Tibet) and Qiang ethnic groups, which were severely affected by the Wenchuan earthquake. Many lost family members in the tragedy. The students, primarily sophomores and juniors, will spend the next two semesters as full-time students at SUNY campuses. The goal is to build a team of young leaders based on their common experiences in the United States. When they return to China these talented men and women have committed to rebuild the local infrastructure in the earthquake impacted region. Chinese authorities have paid all costs associated with transporting the students to and from New York.



David Paterson, Governor of New York

SUNY China 150 enjoys high level support:

- . Governor David Paterson
- . Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao
- . Many elected officials in New York
- . US Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte
- . SUNY Leadership



Wen Jiabao, Chinese Government Premier

SUNY has more than 25 years experience building educational partnerships with China, and has over 2300 Chinese students enrolled – more than 40% of all Chinese students in New York.

SUNY Campuses Participating in SUNY China 150

SUNY-Farmingdale, 19
SUNY-Cobleskill, 18
Buffalo State College, 17
Herkimer Community College, 11
Clinton Community College, 10
Genesee Community College, 8
University at Albany, 6
Stony Brook University, 6
SUNY-Plattsburgh, 6
College of Technology at Canton, 6
Alfred Ceramics, 5

SUNY-Potsdam, 5
Jamestown Community College, 5
University at Buffalo, 4
SUNY-Delhi, 4
SUNY-Maritime, 4
SUNY-Brockport, 4
SUNY-Oswego, 4
Monroe Community College, 3
Alfred State, 2
Binghamton University, 2
SUNY-New Paltz, 1