In 2019, the China Center marks 40 years of building and strengthening relationships with partners, sharing and exploring cultures, and exchanging people and ideas.

Contents

From the Executive Director ............................................. 1
Campus Support ......................................................... 2-3
Scholarships and Exchanges ........................................... 4-5
Community Engagement ............................................... 6-9
Training Programs ........................................................ 10-11
40 Years of Building U.S.-China Bridges ............................ 12-15
China Office ............................................................... 16-17
Contributors ............................................................... 18-19
Corporate and Government Relations ............................... 20
About Us ..................................................................... 21

Note about Chinese names: The China Center’s policy is to list an individual’s name according to the custom of the place where they live (e.g., family name first for a person who lives in China).
Dear Friends,

As we mark the 40th anniversary of the China Center, we look back at all we have accomplished together and celebrate our successes. At the same time, we are anticipating the needs of the future in this time of challenging U.S.-China relations. The relationship between our two countries has become ever more fractious, making it more vital than ever that the China Center continues to fulfill its mission of building U.S.-China bridges.

Our countries have gone through difficult times before, but the University of Minnesota’s strong relationship with China has endured. I believe this is a testament to the important work of the China Center. Building on the University’s long history of exchange, the China Center has built and strengthened relationships with partners, shared and explored cultures, and exchanged people and ideas—ensuring bridges would remain despite political rhetoric.

I encourage you to review the China Center’s 40th anniversary timeline on pages 12 to 15 to learn more about our history and milestones. All these and more could not have been accomplished without the support of our campus, community, and institutional partners like you. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Joan Brzezinski
Executive Director
The China Center serves as an information hub, catalyst, collaborator, and internal consultant to facilitate key China initiatives driven by University of Minnesota colleges and departments systemwide.

**Strengthening Institutional Partnerships**

The China Center joined the College of Pharmacy in hosting a delegation from the China Pharmaceutical University. The China Center shared with the delegation the University of Minnesota’s long history of student, scholar, and research exchanges with China.

The relationship between CPU and the College of Pharmacy dates back to 2013. Every other year, each school hosts a bilateral symposium to exchange ideas and suggest opportunities for collaboration. Currently, the College of Pharmacy is working with CPU to establish a visiting scholar program as part of their ongoing relationship.

**Improving Services through Language**

The China Center delivered two workshops on how to pronounce Chinese names to 30 staff at One Stop Student Services. The presentation included a brief introduction of Chinese naming basics, the ways Chinese people are addressed, common surnames and given names, as well as a 40-minute quick training on pronunciation tips starting with the very basic rules of pinyin, the official romanization system for standard Mandarin Chinese.

The One Stop staff walked out of the presentation with more confidence recognizing and pronouncing Chinese students’ names, with the goal to provide better service to students from China.
University of Minnesota faculty benefit greatly from collaboration with Chinese research partners and hosting Chinese visiting scholars. The China Center supports these efforts by connecting scholars with community resources, organizing events, and fostering individual collaborations through institutional engagement. Currently, the University of Minnesota has 214 research scholars from across China working in our many colleges and departments.

**China Center Awards 2019 Visiting Scholar Fellowship**

The China Center awarded the 2019 Sping Lin and Ying-Ngoh T. Lin Visiting Scholars fellowship to Dr. Tracy Wang, a professor of finance at the Carlson School of Management. With the $7,500 award, Dr. Wang will sponsor the year-long visit of Dr. Jun Li, an associate professor at China’s Southwest University of Political Science and Law.

Dr. Li has many years of experience practicing law in China. During his visit, Dr. Li and Dr. Wang will examine the legal and financial frameworks for the governance and inheritance of family businesses. Dr. Li will also help Dr. Wang develop the content of a new course on family wealth management.

Dr. Li will be the second Sping Lin and Ying-Ngoh T. Lin Visiting Scholar. Last year, Dr. Andres Perez, director of the University of Minnesota Center for Animal Health and Food Safety, sponsored Dr. Xie Yihong of the Guangxi Center for Disease Control. Their continuing collaboration aims to improve food safety, specifically along the seafood processing chain.

**Establishing a Visiting Scholar Exchange Program**

In November 2018, the China Center connected the Minnesota English Language Program (MELP) with the Beijing University of Technology (BJUT), and helped establish a visiting scholar exchange program between the two institutions. During spring and summer 2019, MELP—the UMN’s intensive English program—hosted its first cohort of English instructors from BJUT. Two instructors, Zang Qing and Liu Xiaoyan, participated in workshops, conferences, class observations, and research related to teaching academic English at the university level. This coming fall, MELP will welcome a second group of instructors.
Through the generous support of donors, the China Center provides scholarships to University of Minnesota students to study in Greater China or enhance their academic experience.

Study Abroad Scholarships Open Doors to China

Adam Kleist received a China Center scholarship to support his participation in the CET Harbin program.

“My proudest accomplishment was learning to speak Chinese with locals. I found the language pledge [to speak only Chinese] challenging, but in the end it improved my Chinese fluency to a significant degree. It even taught me to start thinking in Chinese and adopting more authentic Chinese speech patterns. Writing my final paper in Chinese was also a big challenge, but I’m much more confident in my ability to write an academic document in Chinese having had the experience of drafting my 2,000-character thesis this summer. I now have the confidence to go back to China next year for a longer, more intensive stay, and I hope to be able to take courses in history or other subjects alongside native Chinese students, something that felt out of reach before this summer.”

Christina Wentz received a China Center scholarship to support her participation in an exchange program at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

“When I arrived in Hong Kong, groggy and jet-lagged from the travel, I was overwhelmed by the experience of being in a completely new and foreign place. My proudest accomplishment was finding my sense of place in Hong Kong and learning to navigate by bus, minibus, MTR, taxi, or walking. Learning to do so gave me the freedom to make Hong Kong my own and to easily explore its vibrant neighborhoods. It took awhile to understand and appreciate travelling via those speedy little minibuses, although as a foreigner knowing no Cantonese when I arrived, I would simply hope someone else would request my stop until my roommates took it upon themselves to teach me the basics. With that simple phrase mastered, the city was truly mine to traverse.”
Academic Scholarships

The China Center awarded the Hsiao Shaw-Lundquist Fellowship to two engineering students, who used the funding for research projects.

Lun Gao is a Ph.D. student with a focus on hydrology and remote sensing technology. Gao’s studies of water-related environmental issues were inspired by his experience growing up in Shanghai near Suzhou Creek, which was seriously polluted by industrial sewage. With the support of the Hsiao Shaw-Lundquist Fellowship, Gao was able to complete his paper, “A Novel Algorithm for Remotely-Sensed Monitoring of Soil Moisture and Vegetation Water Content over China.”

Yufeng Zhang is a Ph.D. student with an emphasis on transportation. Zhang has always been fascinated by transportation problems and finds great satisfaction when research outcomes can be applied in real life to relieve traffic congestion. Zhang proposed to compare three last-mile delivery methods within China’s booming e-commerce industry, including the emerging shared-use delivery method. Zhang’s ultimate goal is to propose a more efficient last-mile delivery system that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as costs, without harming service delivery quality.
The China Center fosters an understanding of Chinese culture through a variety of events for the local community, from bringing leading experts to campus for discussions on pressing U.S.-China issues, to co-sponsoring community events.

**2018 CHINA Town Hall Features Condoleezza Rice**

In November 2018, the University of Minnesota China Center and Global Minnesota served as the local hosts for the 2018 CHINA Town Hall, a project of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations that took place at over 100 venues across the United States and China. More than 80 guests gathered at the Graduate Hotel for a reception, followed by a live webcast featuring the Honorable Condoleezza Rice, Former Secretary of State and National Security Advisor, as the national webcast speaker. Secretary Rice was interviewed by National Committee President Stephen A. Orlins, who selected questions submitted by viewers—including a question from Minnesota!

After the webcast, local speaker Andy Rothman, an investment strategist at Matthews Asia, presented the lecture, “Trade War, What Is It Good For?” Mr. Rothman delivered an engaging talk about the relationship between the Chinese and American economies, and the need for cooperation between the two countries. Mr. Rothman then answered guests’ questions in a question-and-answer session.

CHINA Town Hall: Local Connections, National Reflections was the 12th annual event organized by the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations. It is a national day of programming in more than 80 communities, including a live webcast and local programs addressing topics of interest to each community.
2019 Griffin Lecture Explores Role of Technology in U.S.-China Relations

The China Center welcomed Kaiser Kuo, host and founder of the Sinica Podcast, as the keynote speaker at the 18th Annual Bob and Kim Griffin Building U.S.-China Bridges Lecture in March 2019. Mr. Kuo presented on the topic, “Technology Tensions in the U.S.-China Relationship.”

In his relevant and insightful lecture, Mr. Kuo discussed the importance of technology in the bilateral trade issues between the U.S. and China. He compared the shifting narratives on the impact of technology emerging from China and the U.S.: The relatively pessimistic, “dystopian” narratives coming from the United States versus the buoyant “techno-optimism” often found in China.

Mr. Kuo analyzed how narratives about China’s technological rise intersect with political concerns. Mr. Kuo warned against an “innovation winter” that could result if China and the United States cease to cooperate. Instead, Mr. Kuo recommended keeping a “small yard with a high fence,” protecting select information while participating in the exchange of ideas.

Mr. Kuo also presented at China Day 2019 in front of 500 students who study Chinese language from 11 schools across Minnesota. He discussed his experience and the insights he gained over 20 years of living and working in China.

*The Griffin Lecture Series is endowed through a generous gift from Bob and Kim Griffin. The Griffins are committed to promoting mutual respect between U.S. and Chinese cultures and are passionate about connecting people with China.*
Panel: “Pitfalls for All STEM Professionals in a New Era of U.S.-China Relations”

The China Center co-hosted the event, “Pitfalls for All STEM Professionals in a New Era of U.S.-China Relations: National Security, Economic Espionage, Racial Bias?” More than 170 people from the fields of science, engineering, law, and others attended the event in April 2019 at McNamara Alumni Center. The discussion centered around two competing and ever-emerging phenomena in the U.S. justice system: potential threats to national security and economic espionage with the ascendency of China on the one hand, and on the other, the potential racial profiling of Asians and Asian-Pacific Americans resulting in accusations.

Three engaging panelists shared their perspectives. Jay Bratt, the chief of the Counterintelligence and Export Control Section (CES) of the National Security Division of the Department of Justice, spoke about U.S. efforts to safeguard national security and curb economic espionage. Brian Sun, the Los Angeles lawyer who represented Dr. Wen Ho Lee, discussed Dr. Lee’s case and offered a historical perspective of racial profiling of Asian Americans in the United States. Peter Zeidenberg, a Washington D.C.-based attorney who represented Professor Xi Xiaoqing and hydrologist Sherry Chen, discussed Dr. Xi’s case and the “60 Minutes” segment on the case that increased public awareness on the issue of racial bias in indictments.

The event was co-sponsored by the Minnesota Chapter of the Federal Bar Association’s Diversity Committee, the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota’s Outreach Committee, and Kingsfield Law Office.
Welcoming the Year of the Pig

The China Center welcomed the Year of the Pig with a Chinese New Year reception on February 7, 2019. Guests braved a snow storm for a special performance by renowned musicians Gao Hong and Issam Rafea. The duo created improvisational music on two ancient instruments, the Syrian *oud* and the Chinese *pipa*.

Meredith McQuaid, associate vice president and dean of international programs, welcomed guests and reflected on the China Center’s past 40 years. Joan Brzezinski, executive director of the China Center, and David Pui, China Center director from 1994 to 1998, discussed how the relationship between the University of Minnesota and China has evolved since the China Center began in 1979.

Guests also heard from two scholarship recipients. Brian Norlander studied in Hong Kong, which inspired him to take a job abroad after graduation. Teng Man’s funding from the Hsiao Shaw-Lundquist Fellowship has supported his focus on engineering problems affecting both China and the U.S.

“The China Center has inspired dozens of exchange, cultural, and training programs that have benefited people on both sides of the globe,” McQuaid said. “The University remains committed to fostering these ties and stressing the importance of this cultural understanding.”

---

2018–19 Sponsorships

The China Center provided nearly $2,000 to support activities hosted by community and non-profit organizations to enhance the understanding of China and its culture.

- CAAPAM Annual Professional Conference
- CAAM Mid-Autumn Festival performance
- Minnesota Chinese Dance Theater Annual Concert
- Global China Connections Taste of China
- Twin Cities Chinese Dance Center, Chinese New Year Production
- Minnesota International Chinese School, Chinese New year Carnival
- Chinese Student and Scholar Association, Chinese Spring Festival Gala
- Minnesota Chinese Opera, Chinese New Year Celebration
- USCPFA Chinese New Year Banquet
The Mingda Institute for Leadership Training provides high-quality training and development programs for professionals from China. To date, the Institute has provided training for more than 3,000 Chinese education administrators, faculty, government officials, business leaders, and college students.

2018–19 Training Programs

University Students General Education Program

University of Minnesota Summer Training Program: Urban Planning and Transportation Management

Beijing University of Technology: Teacher’s Competence in Engineering Education and Innovation Development

Harbin Institute of Technology: Education Philosophy and Pedagogy Seminar

Kunming Medical School: Pancreas Transplantation Studies

Xi’an Polytechnic University: Advanced Administration for Academic Affairs

Guangdong High School: K–12 Teacher Professional Development and Class Innovation

Lanzhou First and Third People’s Hospitals: Hospital Management
Mingda Institute Builds on Long-Term Relationship

The China Center’s Mingda Institute continues to build on its relationships with institutions in China. The annual Educational Philosophy and Pedagogy Seminar welcomed 32 professors from the Harbin Institute of Technology (HIT). Since 2016, HIT has sent more than 75 professors to the University of Minnesota for training and teacher development.

The Educational Philosophy and Pedagogy Seminar is designed in collaboration with Dr. Jeff Lindgren, the interim co-director of the University of Minnesota Center for Educational Innovation. Dr. Lindgren is also co-chair of the Faculty Development for Online Teaching (FDOT) task group, director of the International Teaching Assistant Program, and co-leader of a faculty learning community on Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL). Dr. Lindgren lived in China for six years, taught English at Peking University, and speaks Mandarin Chinese.

The Mingda Institute works closely with faculty and staff at the University of Minnesota to create the highest-quality training programs. Partners like Dr. Lindgren ensure the success of the programming. We are looking forward to continuing our work with Dr. Lindgren and HIT to improve teacher training.

While we build long-term relationships with Chinese universities, we also seek new opportunities in other areas. This year, a group of 30 high-level school administrators from Sichuan University in Chengdu completed their first Higher Education Administration Exchange Program at the University. This visit cemented many future exchanges in other areas of interest. The Mingda Institute is proud to support the University’s research mission by fostering meaningful exchanges with China.
1979–1988

The University of Minnesota was one of the first U.S. universities to resume exchanges with China following the normalization of U.S.-China relations. The University established the China Desk, the precursor to the China Center, in 1979 to manage the University’s exchanges with Greater China.

Students from the first University of Minnesota study abroad program in China, the Summer Intensive Chinese Language Institute in 1980 at Nankai University.

A theater group from Nankai University visited campus in 1987, performing two Chinese plays, “Rickshaw Boy” and “The Thunderstorm.”

The People’s Republic of China National Basketball Team played the Gopher women’s basketball team at Williams Arena in 1981, beating the Gophers 93-72.
1989–1998

The China Center continued to build bridges of understanding, friendship, exchange, and cooperation between the University of Minnesota and Greater China. The China Center assisted with presidential delegations to China, launched an alumni chapter in Beijing, and sponsored academic and cultural events on campus.

In 1998, University President Mark Yudof joined Governor Arne Carlson on a Minnesota trade mission to China and was welcomed by the University of Minnesota Alumni Association chapter in Beijing.

Wei Yu, vice minister of China’s Ministry of Education, received an honorary doctorate from the University of Minnesota in 1998.

In 1993, the China Center hosted a Mid-Summer Festival at the University’s Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. The festival featured traditional Chinese music, dance, and martial arts.

In 1994, 24 students from Taiwan’s National Tsing Hua University participated in a Summer English Language and Culture Short Course.

In 1998, University President Mark Yudof joined Governor Arne Carlson on a Minnesota trade mission to China and was welcomed by the University of Minnesota Alumni Association chapter in Beijing.
The China Center launched major new initiatives, including the Mingda Institute and the Griffin Lecture. As part of its outreach mission, the China Center supported Governor Tim Pawlenty’s trade mission in 2005—the largest mission to China organized by a state.

The China Center established the Mingda Institute for Leadership Training in 2001 to provide high-quality training and development programs for professionals from China.

*Top:* Counselor Tian Jun of the Chinese Embassy spoke at the 2004 Griffin Lecture. He was also invited to ring the *luo* to open the Chinasaurs exhibit at the Science Museum of Minnesota.

*Bottom right:* The first Building U.S.-China Bridges lecture in 2001 featured a panel discussion on China’s Western development.
2009–2019

The China Center expanded its reach and increased services to the campus and alumni with the opening of the University’s first overseas office in Beijing. In 2014, the China Center led the University’s year-long “China 100” celebration in recognition of 100 years of exchange with China.

The University of Minnesota opened its China Office in Beijing in 2009.

President Eric Kaler led a delegation to China in 2013 to kick-off the “China 100” celebration.

The China Center awarded its first Sping Lin and Ying-Ngoh T. Lin Visiting Scholars fellowship in 2018.

Bottom left: As part of the “China 100” celebration, the China Center presented the Distinguished Chinese Alumni Award to highlight and honor the outstanding accomplishments of the University’s Chinese alumni.
The University of Minnesota’s China Office was established in Beijing in 2009 as the institution’s first office abroad. The China Office is a critical resource to further develop educational, cultural, and social collaborations among China, the University of Minnesota, and the State of Minnesota. The China Office had another busy and successful year supporting educational exchange between China and the University of Minnesota.

Support to Students and Parents

The China Office continues to serve as a valuable resource for students and parents, from orientation to graduation and beyond. In March 2019, the China Office hosted welcome meetings for newly admitted undergraduate students and their families in Beijing, Chengdu, Guangzhou, Shanghai, and Chongqing, offering comprehensive information on academic engagement and campus life and answering key questions from students and their families. More than 330 students and parents attended the welcome meetings in the five cities. In May, the China Office co-hosted pre-departure orientation sessions in Shanghai and Beijing for newly enrolled undergraduate students and their families.

Educational Collaboration

The China Office continues to support partnership development for the University. In fall 2018, the China Office staff visited universities, organizations, and government departments in Beijing, Wuhan, Changsha, Xi’an, and Chengdu to promote the University’s various collaborative programs, including research, professional training, and student programs.

In September 2018, China Office Director Wanling Qu co-hosted the 7th American Universities’ China Association (AUCA) Conference with the Schwarzman College at Tsinghua University, discussing the impact of the current global environment on U.S.-China education collaborations.
Professional Opportunities for UMN Students in China

The China Office continued to host career fairs for students and recent graduates in China to network and make connections with employers. In July and August of 2018, the China Office co-hosted the 3rd annual AUCA Career Fairs and Forums in Beijing, Shanghai, and Shenzhen. The fairs were attended by nearly 3,000 students and around 200 employers well known throughout China and the globe.

In January 2019, the China Office co-hosted a large-scale career fair and forum in Shanghai. The event was attended by over 1,000 students and recent alumni and featured more than 40 corporate participants, including Bloomberg, Huawei, Accenture, and Microsoft.

Deepening Connections with Alumni

The China Office plays a major role in connecting proud alumni from China with the University. In June, the China Office co-hosted the Carlson School of Management Centennial Asia Forum in Shanghai, celebrating the school’s 100-year history and its deep connections to Asia.

Recognizing Wanling Qu

The China Center thanks Dr. Wanling Qu for all she has done to build the China Office over the past 10 years. Under Wanling’s leadership and unstoppable energy, the China Office has become the front door of the University in China, providing excellent service for its partners, parents, students, and alumni. Wanling has moved to a new opportunity with the University of Technology Sydney in Beijing.
Donors

Hon. Gail Chang Bohr and Dr. P. Richard Bohr
Bin Chen
Chang Chen
Dr. Yingling Fan
Choi-Chiu and King Wo Lam Family Fund of The Minneapolis Foundation
Prof. Edward L. Farmer
Mindy and Tatsuo Fukushi
Paul J. and Queenie K. Gam
Jill J. Griffiths and Lawrence M. Pogemiller
Dr. Joyce C. Y. Hsiao
Dr. Jian Huang
Yong-Qiu Jiang
Judy and Stephen Krause
Prof. Robert T. and Venetia H. M. Kudrle
Joanne S. and David B. Laird
Junyi Liu
Edward and Josephine Lord
A. Thomas Marubbio, Jr.
Dr. Geoffrey M. Maruyama
Rusty McLagan
Nanjing University Education
M. Patricia Needle
Dr. Phillip K. and Karin E. Peterson
Drs. Rongsheng Ruan and Aihua Song
Sit Investment Associates Foundation
Stanley and Marvel Chong Foundation
Ruth A. Stricker
Yue-him Tam
Kaimay Y. and Joseph M. Terry
Timothy J. and Margaret B. Wolf
Teddy and Laura Wong
Margaret M. Wong and N. Walter Graff
Simon Ka-Wo Wong and Iris Po Shan Leung
Kang Xu and Xiuli Wu
Christina Yoong
Dr. Mahmood Z. Zaidi
Rui Xing and Guangming Zhou
Alex Zhao Zhang

This list includes gifts made between 7/1/18 and 6/30/19.

2018–19 Revenue
Total: $969,687

- External Sales/Services $647,329
- State Appropriations $515,924
- Investment Income $60,433
- Gifts and Contributions $50,575
- Reciprocal Exchanges $9,133

2018–19 Expenditures
Total: $903,481

- Training Programs $574,531
- General Operations $294,320
- Educational and Outreach Programs $39,882
- Scholarships and Fellowships $16,900
Campus Partners

Academic Health Center  
Anderson Student Innovation Labs  
Carlson School of Management  
Center for Transportation Studies  
College of Education and Human Development  
Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement  
Center for Educational Innovation  
College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences  
College of Liberal Arts  
College of Design  
Controller’s Office  
College of Science and Engineering  
Department of Aerospace Engineering Mechanics  
Department of Civil, Environmental, and Geo-engineering  
Department of Computer Science and Engineering  
Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Neurosciences  
Department of Organizational Leadership, Policy, and Development  
Department of Mechanical Engineering  
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering  
Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering  
Department of Educational Psychology  
Department of Curriculum and Instruction  
Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics  
Department of Food Science and Nutrition  
Department of Art History  
Department of Surgery  
Earl E. Bakken Medical Devices Center  
Gabbert Raptor Center  
GPS Alliance: Information Technology, Internationalizing the Curriculum and Campus  
Humphrey School of Public Affairs  
Institute for Child Development  
International Student and Scholar Services  
Learning Abroad Center  
Masonic Children’s Hospital  
Minnesota English Language Program  
Minnesota Principals Academy  
Minnesota Traffic Observatory  
Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost  
Office of Admissions  
Office for Equity and Diversity  
Office for Student Affairs  
Office of Institutional Research  
Office of the President Eric W. Kaler  
Office of the Vice President for Research  
Pancreatic Islet Cell Laboratory  
School of Public Health  
St. Anthony Falls Laboratory  
Student Academic Success Services  
University of Minnesota Foundation  
University Relations  
U-Spatial

Education and Community Partners

Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis  
Interculturalist, LLC  
Minnesota Institute of Arts  
Minnesota History Center  
Minnetonka High School  
Minnetonka Middle School East  
Scenic Heights Elementary School  
Search Institute  
Walker Art Center  
XCMG  
Yinghua Academy
The China Center plays a critical role in strengthening connections between corporate and government partners in Minnesota and Greater China.

China Center Presents Workshop at Target Corporation

In June 2019, the China Center delivered two workshops on Chinese business culture and an introduction to the Chinese language to more than 70 employees at Target Corporate headquarters in downtown Minneapolis. The presentation covered key cultural concepts such as guanxi and included an overview of differences between American and Chinese business styles, with short business scenarios that sparked lively discussion. Attendees also learned tips for using WeChat to communicate with business contacts, appropriate gifts for Chinese business partners, and etiquette for exchanging business cards. The presentation concluded with a brief overview of the Chinese language, including useful phrases for business.

Trade Representative Discusses Opportunities for Local Businesses

Members of Minnesota’s business community gathered with University of Minnesota staff and other community members to hear Mr. Ralph Shui-sang Chow, a representative from the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, discuss opportunities for Minnesota businesses. Mr. Chow introduced attendees to China’s One Belt, One Road Initiative, and opportunities for businesses interested in fostering a relationship with Hong Kong. A lively question-and-answer session followed Mr. Chow’s talk, during which audience members asked about how developments in the U.S.-China relationship are impacting business collaborations.

2018-19 China Center Advisory Council

The China Center Advisory Council (CCAC) advises the executive director of the China Center, builds bridges between the China Center and faculty and academic units within the University, and strengthens connections between the University and the community.

Chair
Mr. Jim Harkness

Members
Ms. Pearl Bergad
Dr. Tianhong Cui
Dr. Alex Fok
Dr. Kim Gillette
Ms. Jill Griffiths
Dr. Michael Houston
Dr. Li Li Ji
Dr. Ruilin Li
Dr. Frank Liu
Dr. Yang Liu
Dr. Zhuangyi Liu
Mr. Ed Lord
Dr. S. Massoud Amin
Mr. Bill Murray
Prof. Thomas Rose
Dr. Roger Ruan
Ms. Kaimay Y. Terry
Dr. Roz Tsai
Dr. Ann Waltner
Mr. Chang Wang
Ms. Margaret M. Wong
2018-19 China Center Staff

Executive Director: Joan Brzezinski
Assistant Director: Haiyan Wang
Training Program Director: Rusty McLagan
Training Program Manager: Zhengyang Gao
Training Program Specialist: Qiuxia Welch
Program Director: Emily Hanson
Program and Project Specialist: Madeline Christensen
Executive Office Administrative Specialist: Jieying Zhang
China Office Director: Wanling Qu
China Office Assistant: Lin Chen

Welcome New Staff

Fran Fangyuan Liu, China Office Director

Fran Fangyuan Liu became director of the University of Minnesota China Office in September 2019. Fran holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities and a master’s degree in business from the University of Washington’s Foster School of Business. After graduating from UMN, Fran served as executive president of the University’s alumni chapter in Beijing and hosted more than 20 alumni events each year. Fran is excited to join her alma mater and enrich the connections between the University and its key stakeholders and strong alumni base in China.

Jieying Zhang, China Office Assistant

Jieying earned her bachelor’s degree from Capital Normal University in Beijing and later obtained her Master of Education degree from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. Before joining the China Office in Beijing, she worked in five offices for the University of Minnesota, including the China Center, Confucius Institute, Office of Admissions, Learning Abroad Center, and Department of Asian Languages and Literatures. Jieying looks forward to continuing to enhancing U.S.-China collaboration and exchange in education and culture through her work at the China Office.
The China Center is a unit of the Global Programs and Strategy Alliance at the University of Minnesota.

©2019 Regents of the University of Minnesota. All rights reserved. The University of Minnesota shall provide equal access to and opportunity in its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. The University’s mission, carried out on multiple campuses and throughout the state, is threefold: research and discovery, teaching and learning, and outreach and public service.

This publication is available in alternative formats by contacting 612-624-1002 or chinactr@umn.edu.