



# Young Envoys Scholarship



In November 2023, President Xi Jinping was invited to visit U.S. and announced a significant initiative: "China is ready to invite 50,000 young Americans to China for exchanges and study over the next five years." This initiative aims to further expand exchanges and promote mutual understanding between the Chinese and American people, particularly among the younger generation. To this end, China has established the "Young Envoys Scholarship" (YES) program. This program will integrate premium resources from various schools and universities across China to provide quality programs, offer a diversified range of activities, and provide high-level platforms and channels for American youth to study and exchange in China. Programs under this initiative include but are not limited to inter-school exchanges, short-term visits, summer schools, summer (winter) camps, and youth forums. American students may also obtain degrees or earn credits through other channels in China. The participants of the YES program will receive an exclusive certificate.

## Highlights

- 01 Comprehensive exchanges experienced by Columbia University delegation in China
- 01 Muscatine High School delegation's participation in 2024 "Zhi-Xing China: Shanghai Discovery" in Shanghai
- 03 Youth delegation from UChicago visited Beijing
- 04 "Sino-US Youth Friendship Forest" planted by students of Lincoln High School and Steilacoom High School with their Chinese friends
- 05 JHU delegation participated in "China's Economy and the World" Program
- 06 Teachers and students from CAIS, S.F. embarked on a study tour in Guilin
- 07 Youth Ambassadors from Sacramento, C.A. visited Jinan City, Shandong Province
- 08 Yale delegation participated in the third round of the "Renmin - Yale Student Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence, Emerging Technologies, and US-China Relations"
- 09 Delegation from Vaughn Next Century Learning Center, C.A. visited Suzhou High School





## Comprehensive exchanges experienced by Columbia University delegation in China

From January 3rd to 12th, 2024, the first group of 29 young student representatives from the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) at Columbia University in the United States visited China. During their stay in Beijing, they visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), the American Chamber of Commerce in China, the Yenching Academy of Peking University, the Schwarzman College of Tsinghua University, the Columbia Global Centers of Columbia University, and the China Foundation for Rural Development. They also toured the Forbidden City, the Great Wall, and attended a reception commemorating the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the United States, and studied traditional Chinese painting. In Chengdu, they visited the Sanxingdui Museum, the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding, the Dujiangyan Irrigation System, Qingcheng Mountain High School, Tieniu Village, Medtronic Innovation Center, and the State Key Laboratory of Rail Transit Vehicle System at Southwest Jiaotong University. They also attended the "China-U.S. Youth Gala Dinner". In Shenzhen, they visited BGI Genomics, Nanshan Energy Ecological Park, Shenzhen University, and "Heavenly Palace" among others, engaging in comprehensive and immersive exchanges.



The student delegation visited Peking University and Tsinghua University



The student delegation participated in the "China-U.S. Youth Gala Dinner"

## Muscatine High School delegation's participation in 2024 "Zhi-Xing China: Shanghai Discovery" in Shanghai

From January 26th to 29th, as young guests of President Xi Jinping, a delegation of 24 students from Muscatine High School in the United States participated in the 2024 Sino-American Youth Friendship Event "Zhi-Xing China: Shanghai Discovery", experiencing up and close the charm of Chinese cities and traditional Chinese culture.

Last November, President Xi Jinping attended a welcome banquet hosted by friendly organizations in San Francisco, U.S.. During his important speech at the banquet, President Xi Jinping announced that China was ready to invite 50,000 young people from America for exchanges and study over the next five years. On January 4th this year, President Xi Jinping replied to a letter from one of his American friends, Sara Landi in Iowa, expressing his welcome to the students of Muscatine to the YES program.

On January 24th, the student delegation from Muscatine High School arrived in Beijing. The students visited the Forbidden City and the Great Wall, and then went to Shijiazhuang Foreign Language School in Hebei Province to interact with the local students. They became "language partners" for each other. After arriving in Shanghai on the 26th, Muscatine students joined the Sino-American Youth Friendship Event.



Muscatine students in a light volleyball match



Muscatine students in Yu Garden to experience traditional Chinese culture

They also visited Fudan University, where they watched a photo exhibition at the Center for American Studies (CAS) of Fudan University to learn about the university's exchanges with the United States. They also learned about the binding and repair techniques for ancient Chinese books, had a hands-on experience of traditional paper-making technique, and visited the historic building Xianghui Hall, which is used to commemorate the university's late presidents. On April 30th, 1984, Ronald Wilson Reagan, then President of the United States, delivered a speech there. The students revisited this historical moment by watching the speech video.



The students from Muscatine High School in the United States experienced the ancient art of paper making

At the Second School Affiliated to Fudan University, the school's Chinese orchestra performed classic pieces such as Bu Bu Gao for their friends from America. Students from both countries were divided into four groups, sitting in circles on the ground to play games. Guided by prompts on their cards, they shared their interests and hobbies. Through these lively conversations, the students enhanced their friendships. After the games, they also participated in traditional activities such as paper cutting, Chinese knotting, and making spring rolls.



Students from Muscatine High School in the United States share what they have seen and heard with students from High School Affiliated to Fudan University

At the High School Affiliated to Fudan University, Chinese and American students were divided into groups to participate in activities such as calligraphy, robotics, dragon dancing etc.





Students from Muscatine High School in the United States participate in a robotics experience event



Jennifer Lee Fridley, Principal of Muscatine High School, showcased the Chinese character “福” (meaning “blessing”) written by herself.

Fridley said, "The students from both countries have formed deep friendships and discovered many similarities. I find Chinese students very easy to get along with, and they take pride in their culture."

"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.

On the evening of the 29th, as night fell, the American students boarded a cruise ship for the concluding ceremony of the Sino-American Youth Friendship Event. The representatives from both

countries took the stage to share their experiences and present a gala performance. With a gentle breeze outside and warmth inside the cabin, they bid reluctant farewells amid laughter and joy. This event has planted the seeds of friendship, promising a lasting bond for the future.



Poems recitation by the students from Muscatine

### 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.



## "Sino-US Youth Friendship Forest" planted by students of Lincoln High School and Steilacoom High School with their Chinese friends

From March 18th to 27th, Zhi-Xing China student delegation composed of students and teachers from Lincoln High School and Steilacoom High School in Washington State, USA, visited China.

During this journey, the American students visited historical landmarks and immersed themselves in China's rich historical heritage, and experienced the unique charm of Chinese culture through cultural and athletic activities. They gained insights into China's high-quality societal development through visits, and formed friendships through exchanges with their Chinese peers. The delegation visited Tsinghua University High School, the Affiliated High School of Peking University, Guangdong Guangya High School, Guangzhou Zhixin High School, and Shenzhen Nanshan Foreign Language School. They engaged in paired exchanges with Chinese students of the same age to experience campus life. Additionally, they visited Peking University, Capital University of Physical Education and Sports, and Jinan University to learn about higher education in China and programs tailored for overseas students. Their itinerary included visits to iconic landmarks in Beijing, the "Dual Olympic City", such as the Forbidden City, the Great Wall, the Bird's Nest, and Shougang Park. They did Tai Chi Kungfu fan martial arts, learned dragon and lion

dances, and experienced woodblock printing, practiced calligraphy and paper-cutting. They also made dumplings and dim sum, played table tennis, danced street dance, sang songs like "In the Field of Hope" and "Jasmine," and collectively planted a "Sino-US Youth Friendship Forest." This journey was a heartfelt celebration of friendship, jointly composed and performed by Chinese and American youth.



American students toured the Forbidden City and climbed the Great Wall



American students savored traditional Chinese culture and cuisine





American students had in-depth exchanges with Chinese students



Chinese Olympic champion Ding Ning taught American students to play ping-pong



45 "Trees of Friendship" in the Sino-US Youth Friendship Forest area planted to commemorate the 45th anniversary of China-US diplomatic relations

At the concluding ceremony on March 26th, the American teachers and students shared their discoveries and experiences from this visit. The American students used slides and other methods to show Chinese cities, campuses, and social life from their perspectives. They expressed their admiration for China's societal achievements and offered their recommendations for enhancing cooperation between China and America in environmental

protection and sustainable development. Karl Hoseth, Principal of Lincoln High School, said that the firsthand experience of China differed significantly from what was learned from textbooks. Besides, the gains from their visit exceeded their expectations. The school will continue its tradition of educational exchanges with China, creating more opportunities for American students to visit and learn about the country.

## JHU delegation participated in "China's Economy and the World" Program

From March 17th to 23rd, 2024, 17 student representatives from the School of Advanced International Studies of Johns Hopkins University visited Beijing and Kunming. It is a week-long exchange program with the theme of "China's Economy and the World." In Beijing, they visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), the Global Development Promotion Center of China International Development Cooperation Agency, the American Chamber of Commerce in China, the National Development and Reform Commission, China Energy Conservation and Environmental Protection Group Co., Ltd, the School of International Studies of Peking University, the Silk Road Fund, the Ministry of Commerce, and the Center for International Knowledge on Development. They also toured the Forbidden City and the Great Wall. In Kunming, they visited Yunnan University, the Department of Commerce of Yunnan Province, the Flying Tigers Exhibition Section at the Kunming Museum, Yunnan Provincial Energy Investment Group, Niulian Village, Yunnan Construction and Investment Holding Group, and Kunming Railway Container Logistics Center. Through these visits, American students gained knowledge on Sino-US relations and China's foreign investment.



JHU students at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China



JHU students at China Energy Conservation and Environmental Protection Group



JHU student at Yunnan University

## Teachers and students from CAIS, S.F. embarked on a study tour in Guilin

On March 26, a delegation of 36 faculty and students from the Chinese American International School (CAIS) in San Francisco arrived in Guilin, embarking on an 11-day study tour.



American students by the Li River

On April 1, the American students visited the Affiliated School of Guilin University of Electric Technology, joining local students in an art and music class. In the class, the American and Chinese students learned about the costumes and interesting local traditions of Zhuang ethnic group, threw an embroidered ball, sang folk songs, and did the bamboo pole dance hand in hand together. The class was filled with laughter. Afterward, the students engaged in fun sports activities on the playground.

Emory, a student from CAIS, S.F., who visited China for the first time, told the reporter in fluent Chinese that after days of visit, he found the mountains and rivers in Guilin very beautiful, with peaks standing on both sides of the green and clear Li River. "I saw very friendly people here, and the teachers and students are very welcoming," he said.

Cameron, another student from CAIS, S.F., had a special love for Guilin rice noodles, a local cuisine. "I had rice noodles for breakfast for all these days, and it's very delicious. It tastes special. We also had a great experience learning bamboo pole dance. We all had a lot of fun," he said.



Chinese and American students performed bamboo pole dance together

According to Jeff Bissell, President of the American school, this visit is an opportunity to enable their students to have a close exchange with Chinese students, thus deepening their understanding of China.



Chen Yanbo, a student from the Affiliated School of Guilin University of Electric Technology, had a new American friend, Wesley, recently. They could chat on their way to and from school.

"My American friend speaks excellent Chinese, making it easy for us to communicate. He also likes the Chinese dishes that my mom cooked at home. We also visited Elephant Trunk Hill and took many photos together. I hope I'll have the opportunity to go to San Francisco to see him in the future," said Chen.

The American students also visited the Tea Science and Research Institute of Guilin to learn about tea leaf cultivation. They went to Longji Terrace, a globally significant agricultural heritage site with more than 2,300 years of farming history.

### Youth Ambassadors from Sacramento, C.A. visited Jinan City, Shandong Province

From March 27th to 29th, organized by the Sacramento Sister Cities Council, a delegation of youth ambassadors visited China and stayed in Jinan, Shandong Province.



The welcome ceremony was hosted by Ma Xindong, Chief Inspector of the Jinan Education Bureau. The event was attended by Liu Zhaohui, President of the Sacramento Sister Cities Council, the delegation leader Ming Xiaochen and 12 youth ambassadors from four high schools in California, Pang Long, Deputy Director of the Jinan Foreign Affairs Office, and Liu Yunfeng, Vice Principal of Shandong

Experimental High School.

In his welcome speech, Chief Inspector Ma Xindong reviewed the achievements of cultural and educational exchanges between Jinan and Sacramento, and provided an overview of the education system in Jinan.

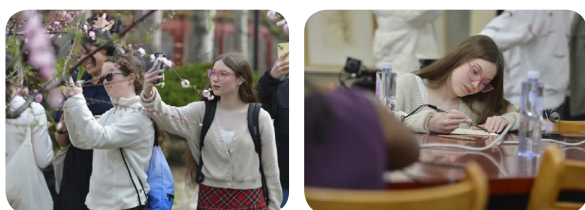
Deputy Director Pang Long of the Jinan Foreign Affairs Office warmly welcomed the youth ambassador delegation. He summarized the exchange achievements since the two cities established their sister-city relationship, particularly emphasizing the significance of friendly exchanges among the young people and the importance of telling vivid stories of springs in Jinan. Vice Principal Liu Yunfeng introduced the Shandong Experimental High School and its international exchange activities to the American students. Liu ZhaoHui, President of the Sacramento Sister Cities Council, expressed her appreciation to the Jinan Foreign Affairs Office, Jinan Education Bureau, and Shandong Experimental High School for their warm reception. She also introduced the members of the delegation.

The two sides exchanged gifts. The students from Shandong Experimental High School prepared gifts featuring the elements of traditional Chinese culture and the school's unique characteristics. The toy bear wearing the school uniform was particularly popular among American students.



After the welcome ceremony, the delegation toured the campus and the school history museum, and attended a class with some Chinese students from the international department. They engaged in an in-depth exchange.





The delegation members also enjoyed the spring scenery in the garden and participated in a traditional pyrography class, experiencing the beauty of Chinese culture through artistic creation.

Since Jinan and Sacramento established their sister city relationship on May 29th, 1985, many exchange and collaboration activities have taken place. The students from Shandong Experimental High School actively participated in the activities organized by both cities, such as the "Peace Poetry" contest and the "My Hometown" short video competition, contributing to the friendly exchanges between the youth of both cities.

### Yale delegation participated in the third round of the "Renmin - Yale Student Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence, Emerging Technologies, and US-China Relations"

In the warm and blooming spring, 21 students from Yale University came to China to participate in the third round of the "Renmin - Yale Student Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence, Emerging Technologies, and US-China Relations." They engaged in discussions with 26 students from Renmin University of China, where teachers and students deeply explored the development and opportunities of both countries. This event facilitated face-to-face, in-person interactions.



The dialogue took US-China relations as a backdrop but extended beyond the two countries, showcasing a global perspective and humanistic concerns. Dhruv, a Yale student, mentioned that artificial intelligence would replace a large number of programmers, significantly impacting the industry in India. The Chinese students in his group shared the changes in China's labor market, such as the rise of the gig economy, which resonated with the Yale students. "In this changing and interconnected world, many major problems are global and cannot be solved by any single country. During the discussions, we were surprised that the US and China are facing similar circumstances. Therefore, we can see broad space for cooperation between China and America," said He Xin, an undergraduate student from the School of Philosophy. "The cooperation and exchanges between China and the U.S. not only benefit the people of both countries but also bring real opportunities to people all over the world." In the summary report, the teachers highly praised the dialogue between the students of both universities. They described it as "surprising," "constructive," and "creative," and were generous with their comments.

The hospitable Chinese students prepared warm receptions for their American guests, guiding their Yale counterparts through a culinary journey that included traditional Shandong cuisine, copper pot hotpot, Jiangnan qingtuan (green rice ball), and Cantonese and Hong Kong delicacies, allowing them to experience the "flavors of China." Li Meixin, an undergraduate student from the School of International Relations, was in charge of the catering arrangements. She shared an anecdote: "To accommodate their travel fatigue and dietary preferences, we opted for Western food for their first meal. However, the Yale students waved their hands and said, 'We want authentic Chinese food for the next few days,' so we quickly changed restaurants."

She also mentioned that some Yale students specifically requested Peking duck. "We kept it a surprise and saved the Peking duck for the final meal. When they saw the whole process, from roasting to slicing the duck in front of them, they all pulled out their phones to record videos." Great food takes patience. The Yale students marveled that they were not just eating Peking duck, but also savoring the Chinese philosophy of "slow work yields fine products" and "governing a great nation is like cooking a delicate fish."

On their last night in Beijing, some Yale students went to experience the city's vibrant nightlife, even though they had to gather at 4 a.m. the next day to catch their flight. "Can't get enough" and "don't want to leave" were the most unanimous sentiments expressed by the Yale students. Prof. Li Chen extended an invitation to them: "You are all welcome to come to Renmin University for long-term exchange or to pursue degrees. This way, you will have time to visit not only Tiananmen and the Great Wall but also many other cities across China."



The current round of dialogue came to an end, but the friendship formed during the event has just begun to grow. Huo Shuying, an undergraduate from the School of Philosophy who participated in last year's dialogue, is now in an exchange program at Yale. She and Katherine, a friend she made online at last year's event, now

can stroll on the campus together. Zhang Xin, who attended this year's dialogue, posted on his WeChat Moments, "See you at Yale next year," envisioning a joyful reunion with old friends.

### Delegation from Vaughn Next Century Learning Center, C.A. visited Suzhou High School

On March 29th, 2024, Suzhou High School of Jiangsu Province welcomed the first student delegation from Los Angeles - the delegation of teachers and students from Vaughn Next Century Learning Center in California, USA.

The student representatives of Suzhou High School stepped forward to greet their American friends. For the freshmen and sophomores at Suzhou High School, this was their first time to introduce their school history and culture in English. They must have a deep understanding and give precise expression to fully showcase their school's heritage, culture, and values. It was a real challenge for them. However, words are not always necessary for communication between peers. Walking around together can bring them closer quickly. At first, they were a little timid and might need to occasionally refer to their "notes" to communicate. But in a very short time, they began talking freely and naturally using various gestures.





Learning the ancient Chinese art of "rubbing" and personally creating a rubbing of a bronze mirror is undoubtedly the students' favorite part. As they examine the intricate patterns on the bronze artifacts, each gentle tap and stroke reveals the most primitive yet authentic form, both a restoration and a recreation. Our American friends savored the unique cultural meaning and spiritual pursuit that is so characteristic of the Chinese people.



At the end of the event, the students exchanged gifts, and the American students were warmly invited to revisit Suzhou High School in 2035 to celebrate the school's millennium anniversary. The slogan, "Together for a Shared Future!" was enthusiastically chanted by all the students, giving us even more reasons to believe that the future of the world would be brighter because of the new generation.



## About Us

The China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE) was established in 1981 as a national organization dedicated to promoting civil educational cooperation and exchanges with the world. Headquartered in Beijing, CEAIE actively facilitates exchanges and cooperation in education, science, technology, and culture, aiming to enhance understanding and friendship among people worldwide.

CEAIE was approved by the Ministry of Civil Affairs of China in 1991 as a national social organization. Its highest authority is the General Assembly of Members. It has 1,212 institutional members and runs local associations across 31 provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities directly under the central government and 16 cities. CEAIE collaborates with over 1,000 domestic project partners and maintains long-term stable exchange and cooperation relationships with more than 170 educational organizations and groups in over 50 countries and regions globally.

## Contact Us

- Contact: YES Group
- Phone: 010-66090069-8006
- Email: [yes@ceaie.edu.cn](mailto:yes@ceaie.edu.cn)
- Website: <http://yes.ceaie.edu.cn/>



YOUNG ENVOYS SCHOLARSHIP