

September 21, 2005

Mr. Wang Zhongmin, Deputy Director
Basic Education Section
Shandong Provincial Education Department
29 West Culture Road
Jinan, Shandong 250011
P.R. China

Dear Mr. Zhongmin:

It is with great pleasure that I invite the thirteen member delegation of education professionals (see attached name list) from the People's Republic of China to visit Connecticut and the United States. The purpose of the visit is to participate in a Principal Shadowing Program (PSP), a collaboration of the China Education Association for International Exchange, the China Exchange Initiative, the Connecticut State Department of Education and the Connecticut Principals' Center. The program has been agreed to by a Memorandum of Understanding between the Shandong Provincial Education Department and the Connecticut State Department of Education. Daniel W. Gregg, Director of Shandong-Connecticut School Partnerships, Connecticut State Department of Education, is Connecticut's program liaison to Shandong for the PSP activity.

Each participant will be matched with a host principal of a Connecticut school. Participants will have the opportunity learn about the organization and management of teaching and learning in both their host schools as well as other schools in Connecticut. Participants will also have the opportunity to take part in seminars with educators from the Connecticut State Department of Education, Yale University, and the University of Connecticut. Professors from the University of Connecticut will provide information on the preparation of both teachers and administrators for Connecticut schools.

Representatives of Connecticut's schools, agencies, and universities are eager to exchange ideas of common interest to improve education and education administration in both countries. When visiting schools and for meetings at the universities and the State Department of Education, I will assist in arranging the itinerary and providing language services as needed.

Exact itinerary dates and program schedule for the delegation to visit Connecticut and the United States will be determined by mutual agreement of the Connecticut Association of Schools, the Connecticut State Department of Education, and the Shandong Provincial Education Department. **We are targeting early November for the arrival of the delegation, preferably on a Tuesday or Wednesday in order for the group to attend seminars and enjoy tourism before visiting school sites.** We will provide any assistance needed to facilitate your visit in Connecticut and the United States. It is our mutual understanding that all travel expenses will be born by the delegation and that language services will also be provided by your delegation.

If any additional information is needed, please contact me at 203-250-1111 (Office) or 860-343-3044 (Cell). If I am not available, please contact Daniel W. Gregg, Social Studies Consultant, Connecticut-Shandong Liaison 860-713-6744 (Office) or 860-712-8666 (Cell).

Sincerely,

Michael F. Buckley, Associate Executive Director
Connecticut Association of Schools

MFB
Attachment

