



US-CHINA EDUCATION TRUST

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

US-China Education Trust Launches USCET Student Leaders Exchange Program

First Program under US Presidential "100,000 Strong" Initiative

November 19, 2010 – Washington, DC – The US-China Education Trust (USCET), with support from Van Eck Global, has officially launched the USCET Student Leaders Exchange program in Wuxi, China. The program will provide grants to American universities to help them encourage students to study abroad in China. Universities will use the funds to award travel grants to students enrolled in summer, semester, and academic year study abroad programs.

USCET has awarded grants to Boston University, San Francisco State University, the University of Arkansas, and the University of Northern Alabama. All four of these universities have China study abroad programs, and all four believe that travel grant programs will lead to incremental increases in study abroad by US students in China. These universities will promote the USCET Student Leaders Exchange program travel grants at events such as San Francisco State's 'China Day', taking place this week at its Confucius Institute, as a part of International Education Week.

The USCET Student Leaders Exchange program is the first program to be launched under the "100,000 Strong" Presidential Initiative that is designed to encourage 100,000 additional Americans to study abroad in China. Carola McGiffert, US State Department Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific, and Director of the 100,000 Strong Initiative, joined USCET at Jiangnan University in Wuxi, China, earlier this month to describe the Initiative's China roll-out at USCET's 7th American Studies Network (ASN) conference. Her appearance at the USCET ASN Conference took place during her first visit to China since taking up her current position. For additional information regarding this initiative, please see the attached one-page description of this program, prepared by the U.S. Department of State.

USCET Founder and President Julia Chang Bloch described the program as a milestone in USCET's support of US-China relations through education and exchange: "USCET has long believed that well-crafted education and exchange programs are the best long-term investment in US-China relations, and this program – USCET's first to support US students' study abroad in China – represents an investment in the American next-generation leaders whose deeper understanding of China will bear returns for decades to come."

Carola McGiffert, on the occasion of her visit to Wuxi, commented that, "People-to-people exchanges, such as the 100,000 Strong Initiative, have long-term strategic benefits for both the United States and China, and we are delighted to have USCET as our partner in this important endeavor."

USCET expresses its gratitude to Jan Van Eck and Van Eck Global for their support of this program.

USCET has relationships with more than 60 top Chinese universities through its American Studies Network and Media Education Consortium networks. For more information regarding USCET and its programs, please visit www.uscet.net.

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