Center for Research on Learning and Teaching



UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

"Through the Forum, we have gained a better understanding of what a world-class university is, which has, in turn, prompted our reflection on how to build such universities in China."

"The Michigan Forum has a significant impact on promoting exchanges in higher education between China and the United States and enhancing cooperation and exchange between the University of Michigan and Chinese universities."

"The Forum broadened our horizon, widened our perspective, deepened our understanding of theory and practice, and transformed our ideas."

Michigan-China University Leadership Forum

CRLT, representing the University of Michigan (U-M), has collaborated with the Chinese Ministry of Education (MOE) and the National Academy of Education Administration (NAEA) to provide leadership training for elite Chinese universities since 2006.

At a series of Michigan-China University
Leadership Forums on the Ann Arbor
campus, U-M administrators and faculty
have shared lessons of Michigan's success
as a great public research university
while comparing notes with the Chinese
leaders about higher education issues.
Representatives of both countries
have benefited from the exchange and
discussion of university management.



Over 100 leaders from the elite Chinese universities, including presidents, vice presidents and university council chairpersons, have attended the Forums, including, for example, the current President of Peking University, Qifeng Zhou. Another 30 Chinese university leaders will be on campus this May to learn about U-M and adapt its lessons to their plans for their own universities.

Project Details

The Michigan-China training programs are presented by the U-M leadership team, including President Mary Sue Coleman, Provost Phil Hanlon, vice provosts, college deans, senior faculty, and CRLT staff. Their sessions have covered several topics, including:

- Strategic planning
- Research and technology transfer
- Management of medical schools
- Building world-class faculties
- Sustainability
- Faculty governance

Because the Chinese 2010–2020 strategic plan focuses on educational reform, the Forums now include CRLT presentations on topics such as:

- Undergraduate education
- Faculty development
- Building a world-class teaching center

All sessions are interactive, with the presenters using active learning principles.

Impact: Actions Taken By Participants

Many Chinese participants have undertaken reforms after they returned to their own institutions, for example:

- Interdisciplinary and liberal arts program
 development (e.g., new courses, degree programs,
 faculty positions)
- Establishment of a CRLT-type teaching center (e.g., supporting curricular changes, enhancing teaching, and improving the quality of undergraduate and graduate education)
- Decentralization of governance (e.g., more budget and decision-making authority for individual institutions, schools and departments)
- More student-centered management
- Improved faculty recruitment and evaluation
- Fundraising through cultivation of relationships with alumni and community members
- Better administrative capacity (e.g., new systems for decision-making)

Program Evaluation

On the final evaluation surveys, participants have rated the quality of the overall program highly for each Forum (from 3.92 to 4.0 on a 4-point scale).

Final Survey Question (overall evaluation of Forum)

Overall program compared to other study/training programs in which you have participated

2006 3.92/4.00 2008 3.94/4.00

2010 2011

3.97/4.00 4.00/4.00

Each year, the vast majority of participants agree that the Forum has enhanced their understanding of U.S. research universities and say the Forum program was useful in helping them with current challenges they face at their own institutions.

