



A University Worth Discovering

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CHINESE STUDENTS TO ENROLL AT WNMU IN NEW 1-2-1 PROGRAM

SILVER CITY, N.M – Earning one degree in four years is a challenge to some; earning two in the same time is exactly what many Chinese students are accomplishing with the 1-2-1 China Partnership Program.

Western New Mexico University has formed agreements with four Chinese universities including Ningbo University, Ningbo City College of Vocational Technology, Xian Jiaotong University, and South China University, and has formed relations with at least one other university in China allowing Chinese students to attend WNMU during their sophomore and junior years.

The 1-2-1 program will bring the first Chinese students to WNMU in the Fall 2009 semester. Upon the federal governments approval of the J-1 Visa, an exchange visitor visa, students from any of the four Chinese universities will be enrolled at WNMU in the Expressive Arts program.

WNMU President John Counts recently returned from a 10-day visit to China where he visited four universities, two high schools, and one vocational-tech college.

“The Chinese take education seriously at all levels,” said Counts about what he learned while visiting higher education institutions in China. Counts had previously visited China and lived in Southeast Asia for two years.

“The message I took from China is the world is shrinking faster than I thought,” added Counts. That shrinking world is especially true in the academic realm where universities continue to recruit from institutions all over the world. WNMU estimates to have students from at least 14 countries in the Fall 2009 semester.

International students are also eager to earn American degrees. With 1-2-1, Chinese students will study in China for their freshman year, study in America during their sophomore and junior years, and return to China for their senior year. They will earn degrees from both participating universities.

Most of the Chinese students enrolling at WNMU will study expressive arts. They will range in age from 19 to 21 years old and will live in campus residence facilities.



Pictured is Dr. Counts at Ningbo City College of Vocational Technology in China during a signing ceremony for the new 1-2-1 program. Behind Counts is his wife Barbara Counts.

Located in Silver City, New Mexico, Western New Mexico University has served the people of the state of New Mexico and its surrounding areas as a comprehensive, regional, rural, public coeducational university since 1893 and caters to a student body diverse in age, culture, language and ethnic background.

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