



United International College – Minnesota Private College Council Partnership

KEY FACTS

January 2007

Key facts about United International College

United International College is:

- Newly opened in the spring of 2006 with 270 students; enrollment in early 2007 was at 1,200. (Enrollment is expected to grow to 4,000 undergraduates and 500 graduate students.)
- A liberal arts institution, with the humanities at its core and 11 major programs.
- The result of the first partnership between a mainland educational institution (Beijing Normal University, which has a branch in Zhuhai) with a Hong Kong counterpart (Hong Kong Baptist College).
- Intended to attract both Chinese and international students and faculty, with instruction in English.

United International College's liberal arts focus is unusual in China, where higher education typically focuses on technical and engineering subjects. It is the first fully sanctioned liberal arts institution created in China since 1949.

The college is located in the city of Zhuhai, which is in the southeast part of the country, near Macao and Hong Kong. The college is co-located with Beijing Normal University, in new buildings on a ten-square mile campus.

Key facts about the partnership between United International College and Minnesota Private College Council

An umbrella agreement has been signed by both UIC and the Minnesota Private College Council that will allow faculty and students at the 17 member colleges to travel to and study at UIC. *NOTE: This is the first such agreement that UIC has reached with an American college or group of colleges.*

Minnesota students and faculty will begin studying and working at UIC starting this year. The partnership will begin with a handful of students and faculty; no targets or limits have been set on students and faculty participation.

William Frame, Ph.D., former president of Augsburg College, Minneapolis, will be on the UIC campus for several weeks in 2007 to assist in the development of UIC's curriculum and provide on-site leadership for the development of the new partnership.

Key facts about Minnesota's Private Colleges

The Minnesota Private College Council represents 17 of the state's most respected four-year, liberal arts colleges and universities as well as more than 57,000 students. These institutions award 28 percent of the baccalaureate degrees in the state.

Private colleges in our state have a long history of internationalism, in terms of sending students and faculty abroad and in terms of educating international students here.

- About 4,700 students from Minnesota's private colleges study abroad each year. These students account for 58 percent of the students studying abroad who are coming from Minnesota institutions. (Eleven colleges have been recognized for their high percentages of students who study abroad.)
- About 1,500 foreign students study at Minnesota's private colleges each year.

Fifteen of the Council's member colleges have established programs in China already. Exchanges have been in place and continuously maintained starting in the 1870s. (When the University of Minnesota is taken into account as well — with its history of contact with China and the high number of Chinese students studying on its campus — Minnesota is a leading state for education relations with China.)

For more information

- For general information about United International College, visit <http://uic.bnuep.com/en/>.
- For general information about Minnesota Private College Council and links to the 17 colleges, visit <http://www.mnprivatecolleges.org>.
- For media inquiries, contact John Manning at the Minnesota Private College Council at 651-293-6805 or jmanning@mnprivatecolleges.org.