

Swallow X. Yan



Born and raised in Manchuria, Swallow Yan was immersed in the history and culture of the "Last Emperor" and the once-Japanese-occupied Northeastern China. He lived through the turmoil of Mao Zhedong's Cultural Revolution, Deng Xiaoping's fall and rise, and the Tiananmen Square tragedy. Swallow Yan completed his undergraduate and graduate studies at Jilin University of Technology in Changchun. He continued his studies and began a career in the United States. Swallow received a master's degree in computer engineering and a master's degree in sociology from Iowa State University. In 1995, he started working for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources as an information technology specialist and community outreach coordinator.

In 2003 Swallow established the Presidential Youth Leadership Initiative (PYLI). Three years later, he created US Education Without Borders (USEWB) and continues to serve as its President. Starting in 2011 Swallow Yan has worked at the Des Moines, Iowa-based, Ten Square International Inc. as Vice President of Business Development. He has worked with several initiatives, including the Iowa-China Business Forum (since 2004), the Iowa Chinese Finance Forum (since 2003), and the Iowa Chinese Cultural and Business Training Center (since 2007).

As a community leader, Swallow X. Yan believes that no culture is foreign to Iowa and that strong leadership leads to a strong community. One of the major goals for Swallow Yan's lifetime projects is to bring the Chinese community into the American mainstream. Swallow has organized several community events and has successfully recruited non-Chinese members to the Chinese Association of Iowa, which now has 30% non-Chinese members.

Throughout a quarter century of political, economic, legal, cultural, education and community service, Swallow carried on his dedication to the USA, immigrants, and international students.