

USHCA ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2022

July 2022 – June 2023

*Not all bridges are built of
concrete and steel.*

*Equally important bridges are
built on friendship, cultural
communion and commercial
cooperation.*

*Where these bridges exist,
communities flourish.*



UNITED STATES HEARTLAND
CHINA ASSOCIATION



USHCA ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2022 (July 2022-June 2023)

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ABOUT USHCA

Our Mission

United States Heartland China Association (USHCA) is a 501(c)3 grass-roots bipartisan nonprofit organization committed to building bridges and promoting opportunities between the peoples of the American Heartland Region and China.

Our mission is to foster and support a positive, productive, and mutually beneficial relationship between the peoples of the United States and China by creating more channels of collaboration and opportunities for economic growth in all segments of the American Heartland Region.

Our programs focus on trust-building efforts to connect business leaders, local government officials, and educational and community interests with like-minded institutions between the American Heartland Region and China.

Organizational History

Our organization was originally founded in 2003 as the Midwest U.S. China Association by late U.S. Senator Adlai Stevenson (IL) and his friends. Senator Stevenson invited former Governor of Missouri Bob Holden, who was also a former Chairman of the Midwest Governors Association, to join them. The

association focused on working with 12 Midwestern states for many years. In 2018, the association expanded to serve the states from the Great Lakes down to the Gulf of Mexico and changed its name to the United States Heartland China Association (USHCA). Even though the American Heartland Region is our focus, we work with communities throughout the United States where our programs and connections can create value for all parties.

Our People

Ever since its founding, USHCA has been a grassroots organization driven by passionate “bridge builders” from the United States who have devoted their personal resources and network to address the China-related needs of their local communities.

In addition to our members, our team is supported by an extensive leadership network composed of our board, strategic advisors, and partners. This leadership network covers the Heartland Region, with a large number being individuals who have spent extensive time working with or in China. Their deep expertises spanning business, politics, culture, and education uniquely position USHCA to forge productive relationships between the Heartland region and China.





BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOB HOLDEN, CHAIRMAN
Former Governor,
Missouri (2001-2005)

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TREASURER
Advisor, Syntegra Private
Wealth Group

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Shanghai Office Chief
Representative &
Administrative Partner,
Haynes and Boone, LLP

MICHAEL FROY
Partner, Dentons

TOM OSTRANDER
Board Member and Audit
Committee Chair, Scorpio Bulkers
(Monaco)

YAWEI LIU
Senior Advisor on China,
The Carter Center

JIM SCHULTZ
Founder and Managing
Partner, Open Prairie

DAVID FIRESTEIN
President &. CEO, The
George H.W. Bush Foundation for
U.S. China Relations

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BRAINARD Mayor of Carmel,
Indiana (1996-2023)

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President & CEO,
GreenPoint Group **LINDA**

“QIAONI” JING
President & CEO,
Genective

SUSAN THORNTON
Retired Senior U.S. Diplomat,
Senior Fellow and Visiting Lecturer
in Law at the Yale Law School Paul
Tsai China Center

SCOTT TACKETT
Vice President of Global
Access, Value & Economics,
Intuitive

STAFF

MIN FAN
Executive Director

JASON CONLEY
Program Associate

KATHERINE
NEWTON-HENRY
Program Associate

ELLEN WRIGHT
Program Associate

**EXECUTIVE
LEADERSHIP TEAM**

BOB HOLDEN
Chairman & President

MIN FAN
Executive Director

STRATEGIC ADVISORS

CRAIG ALLEN
President, U.S.-China
Business Council

GOVERNOR MATT BLUNT
Former Governor,
Missouri (2005-2009)

BLAINE BROWNELL
Former President,
Ball State University

STEVE GRAND
Founder, Steve Grand
Media and Messaging

GOVERNOR BRAD
HENRY Former Governor,
Oklahoma (2003-2011)

JEFF MOSELY
Former CEO,
Texas Association of Business

GOVERNOR
RONNIE MUSGROVE
Former Governor, Mississippi
(2000-2004)

AMOS SMITH
President, Walton
International (Nashville, TN)

AMBASSADOR
KENNETH QUINN
The World Prize Foundation,
President Emeritus; Former
Ambassador, Cambodia
(1995-1999)

SUI SHENG ZHAO
Professor and Director,
Center for China-U.S. Cooperation
at Josef Korbel School of
International Studies

JIM SUTTER
CEO
U.S. Soybean Export Council

ED SCHAFER
Former Governor,
North Dakota (1992-2000)

GALAL WALKER
PRESIDENT
Director, National East Asian
Languages Resource Center

ALAN WONG
Former Executive Director,
China-United States
Exchange Foundation

JAMES XUE
Director, China Affairs at
Melamed &. Associates



OUR COMMUNITY

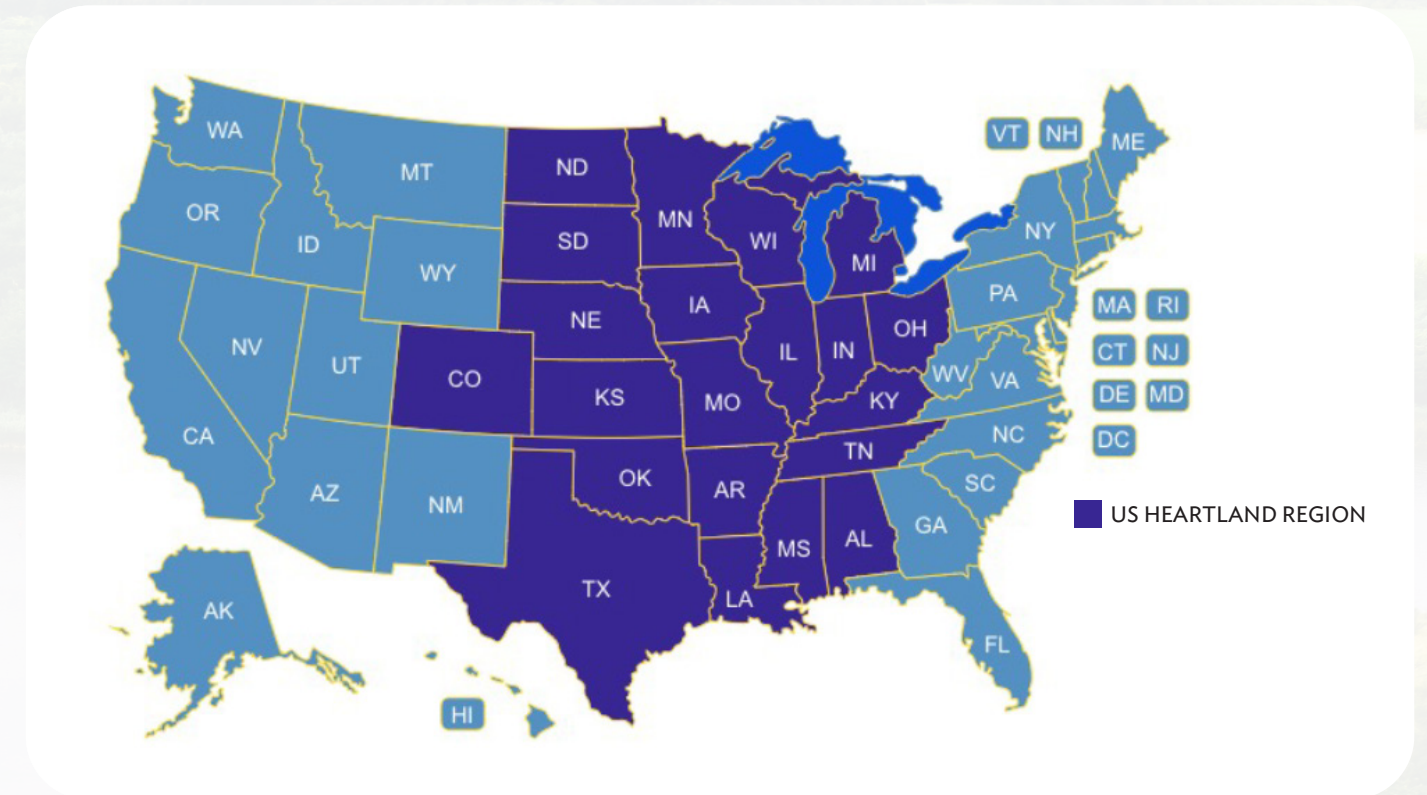
Despite the Heartland’s historical diplomatic achievements and economic contributions towards promoting a stable U.S.-China relationship, our region’s unique perspectives and insights have largely been overlooked in the broader conversation at the national level. Many communities in the Heartland region also lack understanding, resources, access, and opportunities related to China.

Through our community-focused work, we seek to promote a stable and productive U.S.-China relationship to protect and advance the interests of the American Heartland so that:

- Farmers in the Heartland can continue to expand our export to China.
- Educational institutions in the Heartland can remain competitive and continue to attract the best talent from around the world, including China, where the highest percentage of our international students is from.
- Heartland communities and their leaders have the resources to better understand and engage China.
- Companies headquartered in the Heartland can remain competitive in the global economy.
- Heartland students can have the opportunities to develop a global mindset through learning about the Chinese language and culture.

Our Platform

Our unique Heartland platform, away from the national-level politics, brings together the private and public sectors, business leaders, government representatives, and NGOs from the U.S. and China to engage in dialogues and exchanges thanks to a unique set of past involvements and a legacy of promoting friendship between the peoples of our two nations in the Heartland.





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The one year period covered by this report - from July 2022 to June 2023 - witnessed some of the major shocks to the already precarious U.S.-China relationship. The on-going war between Ukraine and Russia exposed widening gaps between the perspectives of the U.S and China on the world order today. Important channels of communications between the two countries went dark following Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan in August 2022. Then came the suspected Chinese spy balloon that was shot down by order of President Biden in February 2023 and Secretary Tony Blinken had to cancel his planned visit to China.

It is against this challenging context that USHCA demonstrated our commitment and courage to promote mutual understanding by seizing every opportunity to inform and engage our Heartland community on topics related to China, even as a growing number of Heartland politicians adopted a "tough on China" stance.

This fiscal year also marked a significant turning point as the world began officially reopening after pandemic lockdowns. Emerging opportunities allowed us to expand into in-person programming, and to hold a variety of engaging and impactful events to

supplement our virtual catalog.

During this period, we organized in-person programming in 12 cities from 8 of the 21 Heartland states we serve: Alabama (1), Iowa (1), Louisiana (1), Mississippi (3), Missouri (2), Ohio (1), Oklahoma (1), and Tennessee (2). From the first in-person U.S.-China Agriculture Roundtable, to Chinese provincial delegations to the Heartland, to educational exchange dialogues, these were among the first wave of post-pandemic bilateral face-to-face exchanges that rekindled friendship, facilitated best practice sharing, fostered business opportunities, and encouraged subnational diplomacy.

In addition to in-person events, our robust virtual programming and activities continued to bridge the geographical gap and connect individuals and communities between our Heartland Region and China. Through engaging online sessions, interactive workshops, and informative webinars, we have created a dynamic platform for cultural exchange, business collaboration, and educational opportunities.

As you glance through the recap of our programs, you will notice the diversity of our audience and variety of our programs, which reflects the

different interests and needs of the many segments within our community. We take great pride in our ability to connect such diverse constituents by responding to bottom-up inquiries and focusing on local community engagement.

The expansion into in-person events throughout the heartland region also stretched our limited resources financially and people-wise. We had to focus and be more selective since the demand for our programs is significantly greater than what we are able to support at this time.

Looking ahead, USHCA is excited about the many possibilities for increased people-to-people exchanges between the American Heartland region and China thanks to a growing list of partners that we can work with. We will continue to adapt and evolve our programs in response to the needs and interests of our community and the changing global landscape.

MIN FAN,
Executive Director,
U.S. Heartland China Association



PROGRAM RECAPS

2022 July



Dragon Boat Friendship Alliance
July 29, 2022 (virtual event)

In partnership with the city of Foshan (Guangdong Province of China), which has a long tradition of Dragon Boat Festival and Competition, USHCA, along with many partners across the U.S. and China participated in the Dragon Boat Friendship Alliance launch as part of the 2022 Guangdong International Youth Sports Dialogue.



August



Finding Security: U.S.-China Ag. Trade in a Changing World
August 15, 2022 (virtual event)

As a global food security crisis is looming large over the horizon, what is the future of the U.S.-China Ag trade, and how can the two countries collaborate to address global food security? USHCA hosted experts from both countries to delve into this pressing question, offering insights on the implications of inflation, shifts in domestic production, and the evolving dynamics of U.S.-China trade, emphasizing the impact on agricultural producers in the Heartland.



**U.S.-CHINA EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE:
*Preparing for Reopening***
A SPECIAL CONVENING OF
HEARTLAND EDUCATION LEADERS

U.S.-China Educational Exchange: Preparing for Reopening
August 17-18, 2022
(Nashville, Tennessee & online)

U.S.-China Educational Exchanges have yielded significant benefits for both nations over the past four decades. However, geopolitical tensions and the pandemic have disrupted conventional exchange models, necessitating adaptations. College and university leaders, who have long played a vital role in fostering positive relationships between the two countries, recognize the significance of effective communication, productive dialogues, and ongoing educational exchanges for their communities, institutions, faculties, and students.

In anticipation of the reopening of exchange programs with China, USHCA organized a special hybrid convening in Nashville, Tennessee, hosted by Tennessee State University. This gathering aimed to reimagine the future of U.S.-China Educational Exchanges and maximize opportunities for deeper engagement between regional universities in the U.S. and their Chinese counterparts. The event brought together leaders from 11 regional universities and organizations, including six representatives from China, fostering constructive discussions and strategic planning for the future of educational collaborations between the two countries.





September

Chinese Ambassador visits

St. Louis, MO September 15, 2022
(St. Louis, Missouri)

St. Louis welcomed then-Chinese Ambassador to the United States Qin Gang to dedicate a sculpture representing a Chinese batter in the St. Louis-Nanjing sister city relationship. The sculpture was part of a commemoration of the 40-year sister city friendship between the two cities, the first such pair between the U.S. and China.. Ambassador Qin's visit generated great local excitement, and USHCA collaborated with partners to organize a rich itinerary for him. The visit included a meeting with Mississippi River mayors to discuss climate resilience, the dedication of the sculpture, and Ambassador Qin throwing the first pitch at a St. Louis Cardinals baseball game. During his visit, USSEC's U.S.-China Climate Smart Agriculture Dialogue was held, followed by a farm tour and a visit to the China Garden at the Missouri Botanical Garden. The visit concluded with a private tour of the Gateway Arch Museum and discussions on low-carbon agricultural transportation, and highlighted the importance of people-to-people diplomacy while fostering ideas for future exchanges in culture, education, and business between the Heartland Region and China.

Before leaving St. Louis, Ambassador Qin met with USHCA Chairman & CEO, former Governor of Missouri, Bob Holden. He expressed his great appreciation for the work USHCA is doing to promote better U.S.-China relations by focusing on the needs and interests of the Heartland Region. Both leaders were encouraged by this historical and successful visit, and explored ideas to create more opportunities for exchanges in culture, education, and business.



Pictured: former Chinese Ambassador to the U.S. Qin Gang visits the statue of a Chinese batter located outside Busch Stadium in St. Louis, MO, commemorating 40 years of friendship between sister cities St. Louis and Nanjing.



U.S.-China Climate-Smart Agriculture September 16, 2022 (St. Louis, Missouri)

On Friday September 16th, the U.S. Soybean Export Council, a USHCA member organization, hosted the U.S.-China Climate Smart Agriculture Dialogue, co-organized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Chinese Embassy in Washington DC. A total of 10 experts from both countries shared insights on the policy, practice, and collaborative potential of both countries around the topic. Acting Deputy Undersecretary Jason Hafemeister of USDA presided over the meeting along with former Chinese Ambassador to the United States Qin Gang.





September



Chinese Students in America: Still Caught in the Crosshairs?

September 22, 2022 (virtual event)
With the easing of pandemic travel restrictions and the return of international students to American campuses, questions arise regarding the presence of Chinese students and scholars. To provide answers,



October



Far East Deep South Tour

October 13-17, 2022 / February 7, 2023 / April 15, 2023

Thanks to a special grant from the Henry Luce Foundation, USHCA organized a 7-city viewing and speaking tour of the award-winning documentary, Far East Deep South, which explores the history of Chinese immigrants in the American South from the late 1800s to mid-1900s, to honor the stories of early Chinese American immigrants in the Heartland Region and promote better understanding between communities. The film follows Charles Chiu and his family's journey from California to Mississippi as they seek answers about his father, K.C. Lou. It sheds light on the lives of Chinese immigrants in the South, their struggles with discrimination amidst segregation, and the racial dynamics between white, Black, and Chinese communities. The documentary also highlights the challenges posed by exclusionary immigration policies like the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act.

Through this film viewing tour, USHCA raised awareness about the contributions of early Chinese American immigrants and fostered community dialogues on their shared experiences of discrimination alongside African Americans.

List of tour dates and stops:

- October 13, 2022 - Jackson, Mississippi
- October 15, 2022 - Vicksburg, Mississippi
- October 16, 2022 - Oxford, Mississippi
- October 17, 2022 - Memphis, Tennessee
- November 18, 2022 - Tulsa, Oklahoma
- February 7, 2023 - New Orleans, Louisiana
- April 15, 2023 - Columbus, Ohio

Pictured above from left to right: Von Gordon (Alluvial Collective), Baldwin Chiu (Far East Deep South), Elisabeth Callihan (Mississippi Museum of Art), Louis Wright (City of Jackson), Min Fan (USHCA).
Photo by Mississippi Museum of Art.



International Logistics in a Time of Turmoil

October 28, 2022 (virtual event)
At this time of turmoil in the world, how are companies coping with international logistical challenges, and what are the major trends and shifts? This special webinar, moderated by Dr. Haozhe Chen (Professor of Supply Chain Management

at Iowa State University) provided insights from experts in the U.S. and China. Following the webinar, a closed-doors discussion took place among the panelists, allowing participation for members of the USHCA and the event partner's members.





November



Global Motivations: China
November 9, 2022 (virtual event)
The global rebalance of power continues. The ambitions, alliances, and actions of world powers have accelerated shifts in the international order that was framed in the

waning days of the Second World War. What interests countries on the world stage today, what outcomes do they seek, and what role do cooperation and competition play?

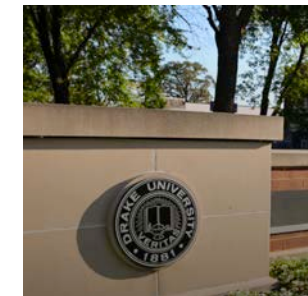
This event was presented in partnership with the International Relations Council's Global Motivations Series to provide answers, featuring Amy Celico (Principal at Albright Stonebridge Group) as a speaker, and Dr. Jiakun Jack Zhang (Assistant Professor at the University of Kansas) as the moderator.



Professional Agriculture Workers Conference 2022 -China program
November 13, 2022 (Montgomery, Alabama)
The Professional Agricultural Workers Conference (PAWC), which credits Booker T. Washington for its birth, is hosted by the Tuskegee University annually to foster a world that prioritizes

equal opportunity and equitable access to information and technology, ultimately promoting sustainable development for communities and natural resources.

For the first time in its over 100 years of history, a program on China was offered thanks to close collaborations between USHCA and the 1890 Universities Foundation. Two segments of programming focused on China were presented at this esteemed conference and laid the foundation for future educational exchanges.



Drake University - Inaugural U.S. China Symposium
November 17, 2022 (Des Moines, Iowa)
Hosted by Terry Branstad, former U.S. Ambassador to China and current Ambassador-in-Residence at Drake University, the 2022 U.S.-China Symposium convened experienced professionals, academics, and other experts to speak on various topics related to China and U.S.-China relations, and aimed to provide a platform

for multiple viewpoints and opportunities for candid discussion. USHCA was proud to partner for this Symposium and our Executive Director, Min Fan, moderated the panel: U.S.-China Educational Exchange: Past, Present, and Future.





November



Heartland Chinese Teacher Award

November 19, 2022
(virtual event)

USHCA launched its inaugural Heartland Chinese Teacher Award, recognizing the exceptional work of Chinese language teachers in the American Heartland Region who have fostered cultural

understanding through language learning. Nominations were submitted by city mayors and school leaders, and the selection committee assessed the creativity of the curriculum, impact on students, and contributions to Chinese language education and cultural awareness. During a virtual ceremony, three teachers received the U.S. Heartland Chinese Teacher Award, and two were honored with the People's Choice Award. Each teacher was granted a cash prize made possible through the sponsorship by LingoAce. USHCA is proud to have supported these dedicated educators and their efforts to provide students with global opportunities and promote understanding through language education.



Yan Wang of Lexington, KY poses with the 2022 Heartland Chinese Teacher Award.

Cindy Casto of Maumelle, AR poses with the 2022 Heartland Chinese Teacher Award Certificate.

Tungfen Lee of Carmel, IN poses with the 2022 Heartland Chinese Teacher Award Certificate.

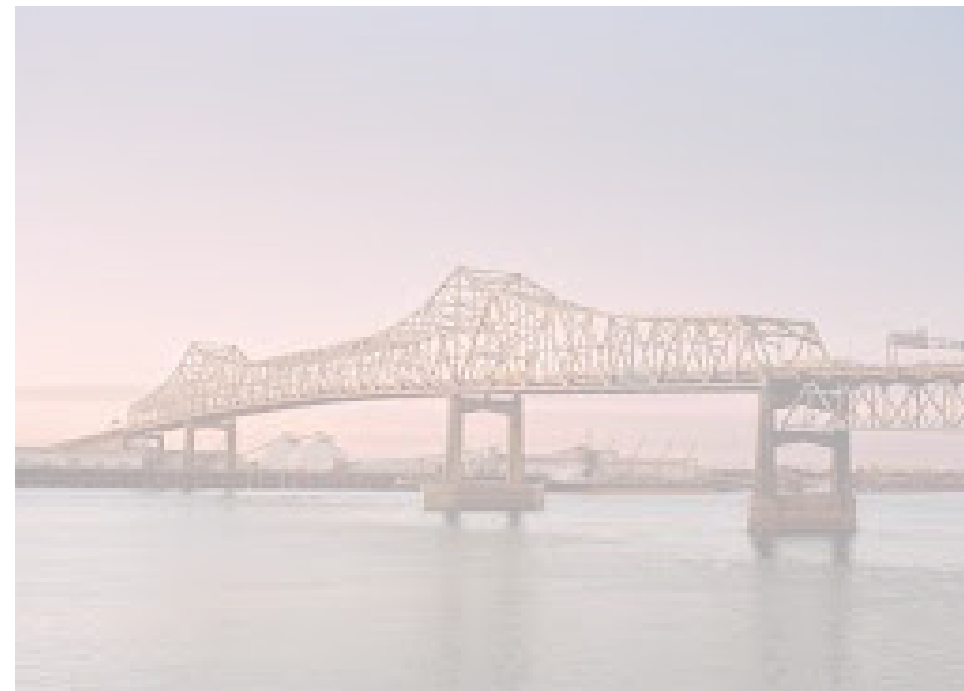


Is a Reset of U.S.-China Relations Possible in 2023?

November 28, 2022
(virtual event)

After China's Party Congress concluded, where a new top leadership was formed and policy directions for the next five years were established, there were several new elements in 2023 for the

leaders to address both domestically and internationally. As the new year unfolded, the trajectory of the U.S.-China relationship remained uncertain. In light of these developments, USHCA and The Carter Center organized a discussion on the future of U.S.-China relations, featuring speakers Susan Thornton (a retired senior U.S. diplomat) and Ryan Hass (a Senior Fellow at The Brookings Institution) with moderation by Dr. Yawei Liu (Senior Advisor on China at The Carter Center).





December



Invest in the Midwest Mayor panel December 8, 2022 (Chicago, IL)

Co-organized in partnership with USHCA and World Business Chicago, The China General Chamber of Commerce-Chicago (CGCC-Chicago) successfully relaunched its annual GALA after a 2-year hiatus caused by the pandemic. The GALA has long been recognized as a prominent business and investment event in the Heartland Region. The event, themed

Reopen for Our Future, featured various segments including a Mayors Roundtable coordinated by USHCA.

Heartland mayors panel organized by USHCA

Pictured: Moderator Rick Snyder (former Governor of Michigan) discusses areas of Heartland-China collaboration with participating mayors; Mayor Tito Brown (Youngstown, OH), Mayor Chris Koos (Normal, IL), Mayor Katie Rosenberg (Wausau, WI), and Mayor James Hovland (Edina, MN).



2023 January



Why China Matters to the Heartland 2023

January 31, 2023 (report & virtual event)
USHCA was proud to officially launch the second installment of our “Why China Matters to the Heartland” project in January of 2023. This research project examines the benefits of the U.S.-China relationship at the state level and provides an easy-to-access resource for Heartland states all on one platform.

“Why China Matters to the Heartland” is a resource for business leaders, state and local politicians, higher education professionals, and anyone else who wants to understand key data around the Heartland’s cultural, educational, and business ties to China. It also includes perspectives from Heartland community leaders that highlight the benefits their communities have seen through exchanges with China. USHCA hosted a launch event for this annual report, featuring presentations from leaders representing various states in the Heartland region, including Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri, Ohio, and Kansas. Each speaker provided insights into a unique aspect of what China means to their own states, communities, and organizations. Some examples include how a Chinese company revitalized a small town, the legacy of a 40-year sister city relationship between St. Louis and Nanjing, as well as how schools in the Heartland have worked to serve their Chinese international students amidst a pandemic and political scrutiny.



February



Author Event: *The Dragon Roars Back* February 16, 2023 (virtual event)

Understanding the complex history, political events, processes, and players of China is crucial in comprehending its current foreign policy and its rise as a global power. To delve into

this topic, USHCA hosted an author event featuring Dr. Suisheng Zhao, our Strategic Advisor and a respected figure in U.S.-China relations as well as political science academia, discussing his latest book titled *The Dragon Roars Back: Transformational Leaders and Dynamics of Chinese Foreign Policy*.





February



New Year, New Opportunities: Business Success in China

February 27, 2023 (virtual event)
In the post-COVID era, businesses sought to seize emerging opportunities in China while navigating the unique Chinese business landscape. To offer valuable

insights, we collaborated with The American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai to organize a webinar featuring China-based executives, including Eddy Chan (President of Fedex China), Jude Barbin (Director of Intralox APEC Operations), and Eric Zheng (President of AmCham Shanghai), along with other U.S.-China business leaders. This webinar was off-the-record and exclusively available to members of AmCham Shanghai and USHCA.



March

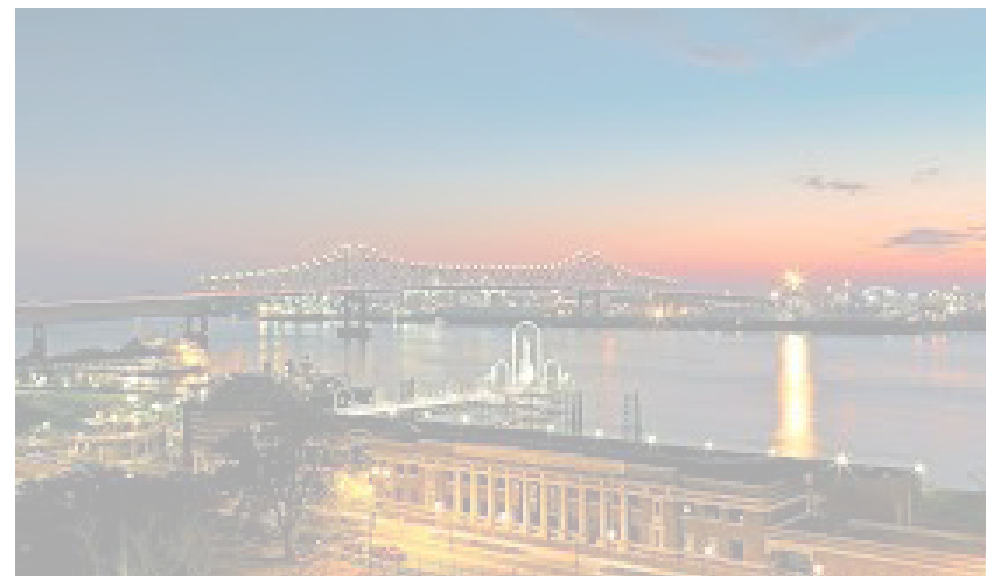


Pictured: (seated left) Min Fan, USHCA Executive Director, and (seated right) Director General Zhang Xiaomei of Hubei province's Foreign Affairs Office pose after signing a Memorandum of Understanding with meeting participants and staff.

Hubei Delegation visit to the Heartland

March 1-2, 2023 (St. Louis, Missouri)

USHCA had the honor of hosting a delegation from Hubei in St. Louis, Missouri. The delegation, led by Director General Zhang Xiaomei of the province's Foreign Affairs Office, toured two Heartland cities during their visit to the U.S., to explore opportunities for collaboration relating to ecological protection, biodiversity, flood control, transportation, tourism, and cultural exchange. During their visit, USHCA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the delegation, the first of its kind for Yangtze River-Mississippi River collaboration.



Author Event: Silicon Heartland: Transforming the Midwest from Rust Belt to Tech Belt

March 8, 2023 (virtual event)
As more technology companies establish operations in the Heartland, there is a growing influx of remote workers from coastal cities. Rebecca A.

Fannin, author of Silicon Heartland: Transforming the Midwest from Rust Belt to Tech Belt, and media entrepreneur with expertise in Asia's entrepreneurial boom, was joined by moderator Dan Schwartz (member of the Band of Angels in Silicon Valley and former Nevada State Treasurer) to discuss how the Heartland can leverage this nationwide transition and its implications for residents, as well as the economic and innovation policies that can be expected.





April

2023 U.S.-China Agriculture Roundtable

April 4, 2023 (St. Louis, Missouri)

The 2023 (3rd annual) U.S.-China Agriculture Roundtable took place at the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center in St. Louis, Missouri, organized by USHCA and various partners from both the U.S. and China.. The event highlighted the importance of agricultural trade between the two countries and addressed global food security concerns. Being the first in-person roundtable since its launch in 2021, the 2023 roundtable welcomed a 24-member Chinese provincial agriculture delegation, the largest such delegation in recent years, marking the resumption of in-person exchanges between the U.S. and China after pandemic-related disruptions.

The event, inspired by agriculture pioneers Norman Borlaug, Yuan Longping, and George Washington Carver, brought together a diverse group of participants including government officials, industry leaders, trade associations, educational institutions, and NGOs. Close to 200 attendees, including many state and local leaders from across the Heartland Region, gathered to advocate for continued positive collaboration in agriculture and the return of people-to-people exchanges.



Pictured from left to right: Acting Consul General Huang Liming of the Chinese Consulate in Chicago, Ambassador Kenneth Quinn USHCA Strategic Advisor, USHCA Chairman and President Bob Holden, Chargé d'affaires Xu Xueyuan of the Chinese Embassy in D.C., and USHCA Executive Director Min Fan.



Pictured from left to right: Ambassador Kenneth Quinn, USHCA Strategic Advisor, Bob Holden, USHCA Chairman and President, and Min Fan, USHCA Executive Director. Amb. Quinn was presented with our annual Bridgebuilder Award, which recognizes exceptional individuals who have been instrumental in the work of building deeper understanding and connections between the people of the U.S. and China.

“Let me thank all of you with the U.S. Heartland China Association for the opportunity to speak [at the U.S.-China Agriculture Roundtable]. We in the U.S. Mission to China, including our new Minister Counselor for Agricultural Affairs, Robert Hanson, we want to be your reliable partner in building even stronger food and agricultural ties between our countries.”
-U.S. Ambassador to China Nicholas Burns

“I would like to take this opportunity also to thank the U.S. Heartland China Association for hosting [the U.S.-China Agriculture Roundtable] every year...by having this important event, it provides an opportunity for the two agriculture businesses to sit together and to discuss issues of mutual interest.”
-Chargé d'affaires Xu Xueyuan, Chinese Embassy in the U.S.

“Having those dialogs can be critically important to maintaining the stability of the global trading system and ensuring that food that's produced is able to be exported, distributed and that hunger and food deprivation are minimized”
-Ambassador Kenneth Quinn, USHCA Strategic Advisor

“The fact that the United States Heartland China Association was able to convene this meeting in 2023, in spite of the tensions between our nations indicates the power of this sort of collaboration. It reflects how valuable we all recognize these conversations are.”
-Dr. Marty Matlock, USHCA advisor





April



2023 U.S.-China Agriculture Roundtable: Think Tank Dialogue

April 11, 2023 (virtual event)

2023's Think Tank Dialogue focused on Rural Development & One Health. In this session, leading experts from both the U.S. and China shared their insights and exchanged views.

Pictured from left to right, top to bottom:

Jason Henderson

Professor, Vice president for Iowa State University's Extension and Outreach Programs, Iowa State University

Gao Liangliang

Professor, Head of the Research Division for Land Economics, RDI, CASS

Brent D. Hales

Professor, Director of Penn State Extension and Associate Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences, Pennsylvania State University

Xu Jin

Associate Professor, Assistant Dean of the College of International Development and Global Agriculture, China Agricultural University

Qijing Zhang

Professor, College of Veterinary Medicine, Iowa State University

Hu Xiangdong

Professor, Deputy Director General of the Institute of Agricultural Economics and Development, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences

Raina Plowright

Professor, Department of Public & Ecosystem Health, Cornell University

Dr. Michelle Kromm, DVM, MPH, MAM, Diplomate ACPV

Principal of Food Forward LLC., Former Vice President of Animal Health and Welfare, Hormel Foods Corporation



2023 U.S.-China Agriculture Roundtable: Ag Education Dialogue

April 13, 2023 (virtual event)

2023's Agriculture Education Dialogue focused on getting young people interested in agriculture. Leaders from top agriculture education institutions from both the U.S. and China shared their perspectives and insights.

Pictured from left to right, top to bottom:

Olga Bolden-Tiller

Dean, College of Agriculture, Environment and Nutrition Sciences, Tuskegee University

Yan Shi

President, Little Donkey Farms

Nathaniel Adkins

Senior Agribusiness and Food Industry Management Student, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

Xiaoyun Li

Professor, College of Economics and Management, Huazhong Agricultural University

Marty Matlock

Professor, Ecological Engineering in the Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department, Executive Director, University of Arkansas Resiliency Center

Liuyang Yao

Professor, College of Economics and Management, Northwest A&F University

Brandon Bixler

Third-year Student, Pennsylvania State University studying Agricultural and Extension Education, minor in International Agriculture

Junxia Zeng

Assistant Research Fellow, Institute of Rural Development, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences



Decoupling of the U.S.-China Business Relationship

April 18, 2023 (St. Louis, Missouri)

UMSL Global in collaboration with USHCA and the China-U.S. Exchange Foundation, hosted a special forum titled Decoupling of the U.S.-China Business

Relationship at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. The forum aimed to address the growing tensions in the economic relationship between the U.S. and China, as policymakers and government officials increasingly advocated for "decoupling" to undermine China's economic growth and global competitiveness. Advocates for decoupling had gained significant support in the U.S. Congress and Administration. The forum highlighted the policy challenge faced by the U.S. to either succumb to pressure and sever or restrict the economic relationship with China or continue along the current path to maintain the substantial economic benefits and potentially mitigate future conflicts through shared interests.





May



Jiangsu Province Delegation visit to St. Louis

May 23, 2023 (St. Louis, Missouri)
USHCA joined with St. Louis-Nanjing Sister Cities Committee and World Trade Center St. Louis to welcome a delegation from Jiangsu Province composed of prominent government officials and influential business leaders. Their visit aimed to further foster the cultural and

economic exchange opportunities that have flourished over the 44 years of the sister city relationship between Jiangsu's capital of Nanjing and St. Louis. The highlight of their trip was the presentation of a dragon boat as a gift to the city of St. Louis.



Pictured: St. Louis local leaders and Jiangsu delegates led by Vice Governor Fang Wei (sixth from left) and Vice Mayor Deng Zhiyi (third from left) pose for a group photo.

June



Eat, Drink, and Prosper Together - Segment 2

June 1, 2023 (virtual event)
In partnership with WildChina, USHCA hosted the second segment of our Eat, Drink, and Prosper Together! series featuring a live-streamed "slice of life" experience with local Beijinger, Fred He, as he headed out into the busy Beijing streets to a local market. Our virtual Beijing street food market tour provided

audiences an opportunity to see where hungry Beijing commuters find breakfast in the capital.



American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State and Boys State Program

June 28, 2023 (St. Charles, Missouri & online)
USHCA leaders and guest Nital Deitel (Senior Program Officer, National Committee on U.S.-China Relations) spoke with future leaders in the International

Affairs Class at Missouri Girls and Boys State. The class, led by instructor Sydney Montague (a participant of the Missouri Girls State's Delegation to China organized by USHCA a few years back), covered a variety of topics including the importance of being a globally aware citizen, the road ahead with the U.S. and China, promoting studying abroad, and current business and economic exchange and trends.





PARTNERS

A growing number of organizations from across the United States and China are working with USHCA. Here are some of the organizations with whom we have collaborated:

- America China Society of Indiana
- American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai
- The American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State & The American Legion Boys State of Missouri
- American Soybean Association
- Archer-Daniels-Midland
- Association of Overseas Chinese Agricultural, Biological, and Food Engineers
- Bunge
- China Agricultural Association for International Exchange
- China Center for Agricultural Policy
- China Certification and Inspection Group
- China General Chamber of Commerce – USA
- China Oil and Foodstuffs Corporation
- China-United States Exchange Foundation
- Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
- Chinese General Chamber of Commerce - Chicago
- Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries
- City of Foshan
- Continental Grains Company
- Deere & Company
- Dentons
- The Ford Foundation
- Genective
- George H.W. Bush Foundation for U.S.-China Relations
- Global Minnesota
- Global School Access
- Global Supply Chain Classroom
- Greater Cleveland Chinese Chamber of Commerce

- Greater Columbus Chinese Chamber of Commerce
- GreenPoint Group
- Guardians of the Angeles
- Hainan Provincial Bureau of Economic Development
- Heartland Forward
- Institute of Current World Affairs
- International Relations Council, Kansas City
- JobsOhio
- LingoAce
- Michigan China Forum
- Mississippi Museum of Art
- Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative
- Missouri Partnership
- National Governors Association
- National Pork Board
- New Orleans Center for the Gulf South
- North Dakota Trade Office
- PandaCares
- Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP
- RPM China
- Sino-American Logistics Council
- Smithfield Foods
- State International Development Organization
- St. Louis-Nanjing Sister Cities Committee
- Strand Theater of Vicksburg
- SupChina
- Syngenta Group
- TN China Network
- The American Legion Boys & Girls State
- The Brookings Institute
- The Carter Center
- The National Committee on United States-China Relations
- The US China Business Council
- The United States China Foundation
- The United States Conference of Mayors
- The University of Tennessee Knoxville, Office of Asia Engagement
- Tri-City Collective (Tulsa)
- UnTour Food Tours
- United Chinese Americans
- United States Conference of Mayors
- United Soybean Board

- U.S.-China Education Trust
- U.S. Dairy Export Council
- U.S. Global Leadership Coalition
- U.S. Soybean Export Council
- U.S. Farmers and Ranchers in Action
- Vairex Corporation
- Wanxiang
- Washington State China Relations Council
- WildChina
- Women in Agribusiness
- Woodrow Wilson Center
- World Affairs Council of St. Louis
- World Food Prize
- World Trade Center St. Louis
- 1890 Universities Foundation

SCHOOLS WITH WHOM WE HAVE COLLABORATED:

- Arizona State University
- Beijing Wuzi University
- Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture
- Boston College
- Bowling Green State University
- Center for China and Globalization
- China Agricultural University
- Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
- Chinese Embassy's Education Section
- Christian Brothers University
- Colorado State University
- City University of New York
- Des Moines Area Community College
- Drake University
- Eastern Michigan University
- Emporia State University
- Fort Valley State University
- Global Maximum Educational Opportunities
- Guizhou University
- Iowa Culinary Institute
- Iowa State University
- Lone Star College
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Missouri State University
- Murray State University

- Nanjing Agricultural University
- New York University
- Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University
- Oklahoma State University
- Peking Union Medical College
- Peking University
- Purdue University
- San Mateo College
- Sanya University
- Schwarzman College at Tsinghua University
- Shandong University of Finance and Economics
- Sichuan Agricultural University
- St. Cloud State University
- Tennessee State University
- Texas A&M University
- The Liberal Arts College
- The Ohio State University
- Tulane University
- Tuskegee University
- University of California Davis
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of Chicago
- University of Denver
- University of Electronic Science and Technology of China
- University of Hong Kong
- University of Houston
- University of Illinois
- University of Madison - Wisconsin
- University of Massachusetts
- University of Michigan, (Lieberthal-Rogel Center for Chinese Studies)
- University of Mississippi
- University of Missouri
- University of Missouri-St. Louis
- University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
- University of Southern California
- University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- Washington University
- Yunnan University
- Zhejiang University



FINANCIAL REPORTS

USHCA FY 2022 Profit & Loss Statement			
(July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023)			
Income	Direct Public Support	\$ 46,012	
	Foundation and Grant	\$285,700	
	Membership Dues	\$ 28,846	
	Total Program Income	\$ 83,200	
		Total Income	\$ 443,758
Expense			
	Payroll Expense	\$ 286,727	
	Contract Services	\$ 32,522	
	Events	\$ 136,820	
	Travel	\$ 39,285	
	Operations	\$ 41,003	
		Total Expense	\$ 536,357
Net Income			\$ (92,598)

USHCA FY 2022 Balance Sheet			
(As of June 30, 2023)			
Assets			
	Checking/Savings	\$255,496	
Total Assets			\$ 255,496
Liabilities & Equity			
	Payroll Liabilities		\$ -
		Total Liabilities	\$ -
	Equity		
	Temp., Restricted Net Assets	\$ 125,000	
	Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 223,094	
	Net Income	\$(92,598)	
		Total Equity	\$ 255,496
Total Liabilities & Equity			\$ 255,496



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We would like to express our great appreciation to our board, whose guidance and suggestions have been instrumental to the success of our mission. Their willingness to give their time so generously is very much appreciated, as well as their continued support of our team. We would not have the great impact that we do without their expertise.

We would also like to extend our thanks to our donors, community members, supporters, and partners for providing our team with encouragement, endorsement, and contributions of time and money so that we can advance our great work.

We would also like to acknowledge the generous support provided by the following foundations:

- The Ford Foundation
- Henry Luce Foundation
- Carnegie Corporation New York

Thank you for your support of our important work in the Heartland!