In March, the City of Fremont invited the Ohlone College Board of Trustees President to represent Ohlone College as a member of their China Trade Delegation scheduled for April 25-May 3, 2008. With Ohlone College’s experience in China as well as the college’s new partnership with a school in Suzhou City, this was a logical opportunity for the City of Fremont and Ohlone College to join efforts. In fact, the City of Fremont included support to Ohlone College as one of its stated goals for the trade mission. The four goals are as follows:

- Promoting Fremont as an ideal location in Silicon Valley for business expansion.
- Establishing new relationships with Chinese government officials and business leaders, who play a key role in the decision making process for expansion.
- Strengthening existing relationships with Fremont companies that have sales offices, manufacturing facilities, subsidiaries or parent companies located in China.
- Showing support of Ohlone College as it moves forward with opening an outreach exchange center at the Suzhou Industrial Park Industrial Technology School (SIPITS) (just outside of Shanghai).

Although a major reason for Ohlone’s participation was the opening of our center in Suzhou, Ohlone College was a full member of the delegation providing a key educational perspective for the trade mission.

The itinerary for the Fremont delegation included visiting businesses and governmental agencies in Shanghai as well as Suzhou, which is located about 80 miles outside of Shanghai. A detailed report from the delegation to the City of Fremont on May 27, 2008 is enclosed.

The high-light for the trip was the formal signing ceremony with the SIPITS on Wednesday, April 30, 2008. This event memorialized Ohlone’s partnership with SIPITS which will enhance both instructor and student exchange as part of Ohlone’s International Studies Program. Prior to the ceremony, a separate Ohlone Team comprised of Dr. Doug Treadway, Dr. Xisheng Fang, Dr. Shirley Peck, and Adam Peck traveled to China in preparation for the partnership. Dr. Fang, will serve as the director of the program in Suzhou and Dr. and Mr. Peck will serve as the first instructors from Ohlone to support the program. [Dr. Treadway will provide a detailed explanation as to our partnership at the Suzhou College of Science and Industry.]

On May 1st the Ohlone Team, now including Garrett Yee, traveled to Hangzhou to pay a return visit to the Zhezheng Academy of Performing Arts, which the college has had instructor exchanges as well as student exchanges. This summer, the college will be sending four instructors to the
Zhezheng Academy of Performing Arts to teach dance. This was an opportunity to re-affirm our relationship with the principals of each college.

On May 2nd, the Ohlone Team participated in an organized Ohlone College recruitment meeting with prospective students and parents in the Hangzhou area. This was a very successful meeting with several families in participation.

Recommendation/Action: None