

College aims for foreign connections

■ CHINA: Treadway exploring partnership with college in Suzhou.

By ERIC DORMAN
News editor

China is home to over 1 billion people, 668 developed cities and 16 million college students. And, according to College President Doug Treadway, by next fall it could also be home to a little bit of Ohlone.

Treadway, after a week-long stay in the Chinese city of Suzhou, said that Ohlone is close to an agreement with the city's university concerning an Ohlone College Center in China, an arrangement that would mean Ohlone faculty traveling to teach Chinese students there and Suzhou teachers coming to instruct here. Agreements are set to be finalized this spring, and the connection could start as soon as next fall semester.

The choice to build a relationship with Suzhou was an easy one, said Treadway. The city lives up to its moniker, the "Silicon Valley of China," as many American tech firms—including some from Fremont and Newark—have production units located there.

From microprocessor chips to laptop computers, many of the companies' products are

actually created in Suzhou.

However, Treadway noted that Suzhou caters not only to tech companies, but also to education. It is home to the so-called "Higher Education Sector," a cluster of eight universities that were built together with the city. This would be an ideal stage, said Treadway, on which to place an Ohlone representative. In turn, the Suzhou liaison would have an office at the Newark Campus.

Treadway said both Ohlone and Suzhou have strengths and weaknesses, and the relationship could benefit both schools. For example, China has shown itself to be a stronger player in areas such as multimedia and nanotechnology, but few Chinese are able to learn English well enough to market their products to America.

If an English teacher traveled to teach in China and a Chinese scientist came to teach at Ohlone, both parties could easily benefit from the others' teaching.

When instructors traveled between colleges, though, both American and Chinese would teach in English.

Treadway said that one of the aspects of China that struck him was their dedication to education. Because of the limits on the number of children allowed in China, he said that parents tend to devote a huge amount of energy toward educating one child, even going so far as to place their child in a private

high school at age 20 months.

By 18, the child would be completely prepared for college.

Continuing on that theme, Treadway said he was also struck by the number of young people in "positions of responsibility." For example, he attended one meeting with a manager, a senior designer and several tech officers. The average age of all the senior designers in the company, he said, was about 24.

"I find it very telling that there are a new generation of leaders in China," said Treadway, adding that while college graduation rates are going down in America, they are steadily increasing in China. He attributed this to the intense competition in China, and the need to get an education in order to compete.

Treadway also noted that while the advantages of opening up a relationship with China are great, the risks of not doing so are also sizable. As China becomes a bigger player on the global market, said Treadway, "one can't help but compare the U.S. [to China] and wonder if we're going to stay competitive."

"It used to be that people thought of going to China as kind of a missionary thing, to help them out," continued Treadway. "In the global economy, it isn't like that at all...that's what students need to understand."

■ CHINA, VIETNAM, TAIWAN: West seeks partnership opportunities.

By MARGARITA KITOVA
Staff writer

Director of International Programs and Services Eddie West will be traveling to Vietnam, Hong Kong and Taiwan next month to promote Ohlone College. He will be representing Ohlone in local educational events.

The first stop will be in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on Tuesday, Oct. 9 during the first anniversary of the Institute of International Education. West will visit Hong Kong on Saturday, Oct. 14 and participate in the 2007 IIE U.S. Higher Education Fair. Students from Hong Kong who wish to study in the U.S. will meet with representatives from around 95 U.S. colleges and universities.

Ohlone's international programs director will explain about the application procedures, required exams, English language programs and short-term programs as well as the required documentation for obtaining a student visa for the United States. Last stop will be Taipei, Taiwan on Tuesday, Oct. 16 -Thursday, Oct. 18. The place and time are to be determined.

Foundation to award \$16,000 in scholarships

By INEZ BLACK
Staff writer

The Ohlone Foundation has more than \$16,000 in 30 scholarships to award before the Thanksgiving Holiday break. Over the summer, Foundation Executive Director Dave Smith and the Ohlone Scholarship Advisory Committee revised the application process, streamlining it to facilitate an earlier disbursement date. The scholarship application deadline is Oct. 31, 2007.

The revised Ohlone Foundation website uses a summary grid format to list each scholarship and its specific requirements. Smith said, "We selected this format so students can see at a glance how much is available, how many are available, how many units you have to carry, what the GPA needs to be, is a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) required, is there a specific major required, and we have some that are gender specific." There is

a wide range of criteria, some of which are not scholastics based, such as ethnicity, gender and major, depending upon who is offering the scholarship.

Smith and the Scholarship Advisory Committee developed an "Eligibility Checklist" because he realized that two-thirds of the applications were disqualified during the Financial Aid screening for lacking required elements, such as the number of units the student is enrolled in or the GPA.

Although an applicant meets the general requirements of the Ohlone Foundation, they did not meet the additional requirements connected with the specific scholarship. Smith commented, "The student put all this effort into completing the application, but we had to take them out of consideration because they missed something...For myself, I know that I could not have gone to college unless I was scholarshiped. So I take this as a serious

responsibility."

Director of Financial Aid Deborah Griffin said, "We don't approve the scholarship; we sit on the Advisory Committee of the Ohlone Foundation...We verify that the application fits the criteria of the scholarship. Then, the final determination is made by the Scholarship Committee and Ohlone Foundation."

"It seems that this fall there are more scholarships with FAFSA requirement - a financial need requirement," said Smith.

Smith continued, "I'm surprised at the number of students who don't apply for financial aid. I think we have less than 13 percent of the Ohlone students apply for financial aid." He said that most community colleges have 30-40 percent of students who apply. With the demographics of Ohlone, significantly more students are eligible for financial aid than are applying for it.

The new "Eligibility Check-

list" requires the student to check off each block on the form for the particular scholarship, to be qualified for consideration for that specific scholarship. To obtain the "Eligibility Checklist" forms for a specific scholarship, merely click on the name of the scholarship in the summary grid listing.

A student does not have to have a 4.0 GPA to obtain a scholarship, as many scholarships are based on financial need or other criteria. For example, the Ohlone Foundation also has four \$500 scholarships, and its scholarship criteria are: (a) enrolled in at least 12 units at Ohlone College, (b) a cumulative Grade Point Average of 2.5 or better, (c) and a letter of recommendation from an Ohlone faculty member, counselor or administrator.

Smith emphasized that students must be careful to provide every piece of information requested and every required document, as a simple omission disqualifies

the scholarship application. Each application must submit the documents and information required by the Ohlone Foundation, as well as the "Eligibility Checklist" unique to each scholarship, plus the "Ohlone College Scholarship Application."

Smith said, "We will convene the scholarship committee in early November. I put out an announcement to that effect because I am looking for some additional volunteers to serve on the Scholarship Committee." If anyone writes a letter of recommendation for a student for a scholarship, they would be disqualified from evaluating that scholarship only, and they can be on the Scholarship Committee.

If a student has not completed a FAFSA already, they can still do it, either online or on paper. Students can fill it out on the Financial Aid Website (<http://www.ohlone.edu/org/finaid/>), or can contact Financial Aid at 659-6150 for assistance.

Child development experts to convene at conference

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in the classroom. Ken Waters will be doing a workshop on motivation. He will discuss with the audience some strategies to stay motivated from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Vella Black-Roberts will be doing a workshop on "Body Mass Index." Marva Lyons, Margie Castello-Chevis and Melody Angles will be doing a workshop concerning promoting leadership and advocacy in early childhood.

The keynote speaker, Charlotte Diamond, a children's recording artist, will be performing a few of her songs to sing with children. She will also be doing the first workshop and promoting different techniques of dealing with young children.

Diamond will also teach early

childhood educators how to cover all curriculum areas through music. Her CD will be on sale at the conference.

Discount School Supplies will be there with a representative allowing people to order school supplies through a catalog. One of the representatives will demonstrate how to use art materials such as paint, glue and safety scissors to create special projects in the classroom. There will also be several booths run by different vendors with varied things that can be used inside the classroom.

The registration fee for this annual event is \$20. This fee includes all three workshops, performances by Charlotte Diamond and continental breakfast as well as a box

lunch. There will also be a raffle during lunch and entertaining Sudanese drum performers. Anyone who wants to enjoy learning and relaxing on a Saturday should fill out a registration form at www.ohlone.edu/instr/ecs/profdev.html. In addition, Ohlone students who want to receive one-half a unit of credit should apply for this event on the Ohlone website. This event is expected to have about 225 attendees, not including vendors, counselors and workshop developers. Parking is limited and located in parking lot K. This is an annual event and will not occur until next September.

For more information on this event, contact Fonteno at (510) 979-7496 or Mairi Tsiftsi at (510) 659-6450.



Photographed by Jonathan Show

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