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May 1, 2006

Timothy M. Sennett
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Dr. Aldo R. Jackson, Director
Erie County Technical School
8500 Oliver Road
Erie, PA 16509-4699

**RE: Agreement of Academic and Cultural Cooperation – Zibo
Technical Institute**

Dear Dr. Jackson:

I have reviewed the above-referenced Agreement at the request of the Operating Committee. I have the following thoughts in regard to the Agreement.

In Article I, paragraph 1, "The Exchange of Students", it permits two students per school year for a visit or twenty for short-term visits. In paragraph 2, the period of exchange shall not exceed one year but may be as short as two weeks. The definition of a short-term visit for the twenty students is not included in the Agreement. You may wish to place a definition within the Agreement with regard to a short-term visit as an amount of time not to exceed three weeks.

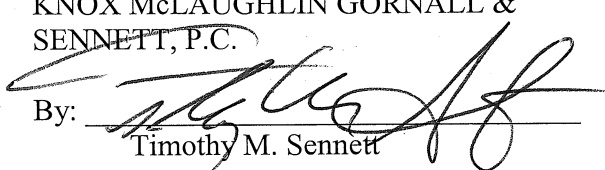
In Article IV, "Other Related Matters", I note that the term of the Agreement is for five years, which is a fairly extensive period of time. We may wish to choose a shorter period of time in order to ensure that the program is effective.

In addition, if the children received from China do not speak English, the Vo-Tech will have to retain an interpreter to ensure that these children receive a proper education. Will the Chinese students also be attending a home school for additional education over and above the vocational-technical school education? Have we coordinated this effort with one or more of the home school districts?

If you wish to discuss these matters further, please contact me at any time.

Very truly yours,

KNOX McLAUGHLIN GORNALL &
SENNETT, P.C.

By: 

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Agreement of Academic & Cultural Cooperation

Erie County Technical School and the Zibo Technical Institute

This agreement is made with the desire and intention of promoting cultural awareness between the United States of America and the People's Republic of China. It is also aimed at strengthening academic cooperation and friendship between the Erie County Technical School and the Zibo Technical Institute. This agreement covers the exchange of professional staff, students and related matters.

I. The Exchange of Professional Staff

1. The maximum number of professional staff to be sent from each side is two (2) per year.
2. The contractual agreement for any one (1) professional staff member shall not exceed one year. If a one-year extension is requested, it must be agreed to by both sides in writing.
3. Salary remuneration for the exchange professional staff shall be borne by the side from which the exchange members come. Traveling expenses, that is, a round trip airplane ticket shall be paid for by the side from which the professional staff member is coming.
4. The exchange professional staff shall be considered employees of the host school. Thus, they shall have the privileges and responsibilities of employees according to the regulations of the host school.
5. The host school shall provide free room and board for the exchange professional staff. Other personal needs are the responsibility of the exchange professional.
6. Other logistical problems relating to an exchange shall be resolved by representatives of both sides on a case-by-case basis.
7. Short visits may be arranged by mutual agreement.

II. The Exchange of Students

1. The maximum number of students to be sent from each school is two (2) per school year visits or twenty (20) for short-term visits.
2. The period of each exchange shall not exceed one school year and may be as short as two weeks.
3. The host school shall provide students free room and board (dormitory or home stay).
4. All other expenses for the exchange students shall be borne by themselves. If the host school is able to offer financial assistance, such funds shall be distributed on a case-by-case basis.

Agreement of Academic & Cultural Cooperation
Erie County Technical School and the
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5. The exchange students shall be considered students of the host school. Thus, they shall abide by the rules and regulation of the host school.
6. Both schools shall provide appropriate orientation and academic assistance for the exchange students.
7. In all cases, visits to historic and cultural events and sites for the exchange students are encouraged.
8. The exchange students will get free treatment for small daily sickness such as cold, etc. The exchange may be terminated early by either school in the event of illness, delinquency, or other matters with mutual agreement.

III. The Exchange of Information

The exchange of educational materials including publications, academic research, and other instructional information shall take place between the two schools on a regular basis, as well as communication between students and staff in schools in both regions.

IV. Other Related Matters

1. This Agreement shall become effective as soon as the representatives affix their signatures and shall be in force for a period of five years from the date of signing. This agreement is written in English and Chinese and provided to each party. All copies of the agreement are equally valid.
2. Extensions or written amendments of this agreement may be proposed by either side and endorsed through negotiation and mutual consent.

REPRESENTATIVES

ZIBO TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

ERIE COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL

DIRECTOR

DATE

BOARD PRESIDENT

DATE

(with proposed changes)

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3. ***Short-term visits shall not exceed three weeks.***
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10. ***How does the agreement handle “academic” instruction and will participating school districts assist with this?***

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IV. Other Related Matters

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2. Extensions or written amendments of this agreement may be proposed by either side and endorsed through negotiation and mutual consent.

REPRESENTATIVES

ZIBO TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

ERIE COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL

DIRECTOR

DATE

BOARD PRESIDENT

DATE