



CONTACT:

Cindy Steinhauser, Assistant City Manager
563-589-4110, csteinha@cityofdubuque.org
www.cityofdubuque.org

NEWS RELEASE

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City of Dubuque Hosts Sustainability Fellows from China

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The City of Dubuque, in partnership with the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and the International City Managers Association, will host two foreign professionals from China from April 18 to May 2.

More than 220 foreign professionals from more than 30 countries worldwide will be engaged in similar hands-on fellowship experiences in placements at organizations across the United States this spring.

The fellows, Jiankui Guo, director of the Wuxi(Binhu) National Sensor Information Center in Wuxi, Jiangsu, China, and Jianping Ou, deputy director of the Changsha Energy Bureau of Changsha, Hunan, China, will arrive in Dubuque Monday, April 18, and depart on Monday, May 2. During their time in Dubuque, they will shadow local sustainability programs including the Dubuque 2.0 Sustainability Challenge of the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque; the Petals Project, a green business certification program of the East Central Intergovernmental Association; the Green Corps Weatherization program through the Four Mounds Energy Center; the Business Innovation Consortium through Greater Dubuque Development Corporation; and the Historic Millwork District development through Dubuque Main Street. They will tour construction of sustainable City projects including the Bee Branch Creek Restoration Project and the Water and Resource Recovery Center. Their stay will also include a visit to the three major colleges and universities, the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium, EB Lyons Interpretive Center, and the Mines of Spain Recreation Area.

“This program offers Dubuque the opportunity to expand our current efforts to share best practices around creating sustainable communities throughout the United States to an

international platform and learn from the accomplishments of others,” said Dubuque Mayor Roy D. Buol.

This exchange program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs through grant awards to 16 U.S.-based non-profit organizations and universities, including the International City Managers Association. The Professional Fellows Program provides substantive professional development and support to emerging leaders working in the fields of global health, legislative development, environmental issues, food security, and educational initiatives aimed at bolstering employment opportunities.

At the conclusion of the spring fellowships, all of the fellows will travel from their fellowship placements across the U.S. to Washington, D.C. where they will take part in the second annual spring Fellows Congress, May 2-5. The Congress will focus on such themes as civic engagement, coalition building, advocacy and media outreach.

During the Legislative Fellows Congress in November, 2010, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told the participants via video message that she hoped “this exchange will spur new ideas about ways to address challenges in your communities.” Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs Ann Stock also spoke to the fall group, calling this a “vital exchange...” that “helps individuals, non-profits, businesses and others partner with governments to strengthen communities.”

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