



City of Seattle
Office of the Mayor

News

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**Mayor Mike McGinn and Former Governor Gary Locke Announce Support for Obama's
100,000 Strong Initiative**

OneWorld Now!'s "Seattle Strong" Event Promotes Students Studying in China

SEATTLE— Mayor Mike McGinn, Superintendent of Seattle Public Schools Dr. Susan Enfield, and U.S. Ambassador to China and former Washington State Governor Gary Locke today announced their support for Seattle to be a partner city in President Obama's 100,000 Strong Initiative to diversify and dramatically increase the number of American students studying abroad in China. Seattle joins other major U.S. cities selected by the U.S. State Department to lead this initiative because of its important role in U.S.-China relations.

The announcement was made at an event called Seattle Strong organized by OneWorld Now! (OWN). OWN is an award winning local nonprofit and will be the lead organization in Seattle generating support and funds to send underserved Seattle high school youth to China to study.

"It is an honor for Seattle to be asked to partner with the Obama Administration as one of the U.S. cities in the 100,000 Strong Initiative," said McGinn. "By offering an opportunity to study in China to students who would not otherwise have it or be able to afford it, the program gives more Seattle students a chance to compete in the global economy."

Announced by President Obama in 2009, the 100,000 Strong Initiative seeks to develop opportunities for underrepresented students to study in China. By sending more American students abroad to China the State Department hopes to prepare the next generation of China experts ready to build the political, economic, and cultural ties between China and the U.S.

Speaking at the event via video, Locke said that he and his wife Mona "strongly support President Obama's 100,000 Strong Initiative."

"We are especially excited that my hometown of Seattle will benefit from this important national effort," Locke continued. "We hope you will join us to enable underserved high school students from Seattle to study in China by supporting OneWorld Now! and Seattle Strong. We are particularly inspired by the way the private sector based in Washington State is rallying to make

sure Seattle students are able to participate in this national effort to position the next generation of Americans to engage constructively with China.”

“Seattle Public Schools has spent the past nine years working closely with OWN to teach underserved Seattle youth Chinese,” Enfield said. “OWN is an innovative organization and a natural fit to lead Seattle’s involvement in the 100,000 Strong Initiative. We are pleased to be a partner in this effort.”

OWN was founded in Seattle in 2002 with a vision to develop global leaders through critical language classes, leadership training, and study abroad opportunities for underserved youth.

One World Now!’s Seattle Strong luncheon on November 15th at the Grand Hyatt Hotel will raise money specifically for underserved Seattle high school students to study abroad in China.

A major concert featuring Grammy award winning artists will.i.am and John Legend, along with other U.S. and Chinese artists, will be held in Beijing on Dec. 17 to benefit 100,000 Strong. The concert is being organized by Americans Promoting Study Abroad (APSA), which runs full-scholarship programs for underprivileged U.S. high school students to study in Beijing, focusing on language acquisition, cultural understanding, leadership development and exposure to international careers. APSA is partnering with the State Department to meet the goals of 100,000 Strong.

The 100,000 Strong Initiative is a public-private partnership; to date, private corporate and foundation donors have pledged over \$11 million towards the Initiative. The Chinese government has offered 20,000 scholarships for U.S. students. To learn more about the 100,000 Strong Initiative, visit <http://www.state.gov/100Kstrong>.

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