

## **Cambridge College Kicks off Executive Training Program**

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On Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, Cambridge College kicked off its innovative Chinese Executive Training Program. Over the next three months, Cambridge College is hosting 30 senior administrators and chief executives from the Shandong Province in China for a training program which will deepen their understanding of American business practices and culture through a series of seminars, visits to prominent corporations, and participation in American social and cultural life.

The program commenced with a welcome reception at the Inn at Harvard, where the Chinese executives engaged with several members of the Cambridge College administration and staff before a presentation and dinner. President Mahesh Sharma shared some advice with the executives. “When a man or a woman wants to be educated, one needs three things,” he said, referencing one of his favorite sayings. “He or she needs to read, to travel, and to be in the company of those who are learners themselves. My colleagues and I will do everything possible to make you happy in your learning and ensuring that you also have fun along the way,” he said. President Sharma expressed his hope for Cambridge College and the Chinese executives to become great friends by the end of the program.

Dr. Joseph Daisy, Vice President for College Affairs, welcomed the Chinese to the College by paraphrasing a quote from Senator Edward Kennedy. “I hope that during this experience, we can focus on all the good things that unite us rather than divide us,” said Dr. Daisy.

Jiang Kui, the leader of the Chinese executive group, thanked Cambridge College for this unique opportunity. Mr. Kui, who is employed by Shantui Construction Machinery Co., Ltd in the Shandong Province, told the audience that he had been working on his English for a few months before the program. “As you know, we come from the biggest companies in the Shandong province, which has grown at a fast pace over the past few years,” he said. “Last year we were ranked second in China, and this year we might be first,” he added. President Sharma assured the group that they would certainly be ranked first after earning their Certificates in American Business at Cambridge College.

Cambridge College is partnering with the Shandong Economic and Trade Commission and the Shandong Province State Owned Enterprise Council to offer an Executive Training Program for select business and industry leaders from the Shandong Province in China. The Shandong Province, situated on the eastern part of China on the lower reaches of the Yellow River, is ranked as one of the top three overall revenue generating states in China. With a population of 90 million, the Shandong Province houses one-tenth of the entire Chinese population.

“We take it as a great honor to be students here at Cambridge College,” continued Mr. Kui. “There are many things we have to learn,” he said. Mr. Kui said that the group was interested in studying critical business pieces like how to manage big groups, good business construction, how to conjure risks, and how to show results. He expressed his wishes to have opportunities to cooperate with the US in business after the program.

Cambridge College Trustee Bruce C. Bolling assured the group of executives that they had come to the right place for their continued education. “Cambridge College is the foremost educational institution in the United States with a focus on the adult learner,” said Mr. Bolling, who is also a member of the Cambridge College Class of 1980, stating that the teaching and learning model is what makes the College number one. “It is not by accident that you are here. It is destiny that has brought both of us together; the best of the East and the best of the West. This will be a beneficial experience for each one of us,” he added.

This group of executives has been identified as next-generation leaders at the Chinese corporations where they currently work, many with billion-dollar annual revenues. They will earn a Certificate in American Business Studies at Cambridge College through this Executive Training Program, which builds on Cambridge College’s expertise in offering higher education opportunities that are grounded in both theory and professional practice in order to provide a deeper and more engaging experience for adult learners. Consistent with the College’s adult teaching and learning model, the program is designed to expand on the professional knowledge and leadership expertise of the participants, while providing them with a comprehensive background in American management and business practices.

Cambridge College China Programs Director Baiqing Li ended the night with a challenge for the executives. “I challenge you to learn how to have a dialogue with United States-with the people and the culture,” he said. “It sounds easy, but when you do it, it’s a lot harder.”

In the coming weeks, the group of Chinese executives will spend time exploring the culture and education of the cities of Cambridge and Boston. The training program will include classes, lectures and symposia covering a variety of topics including the *Language and Culture of Business, Management & Leadership in the Twenty-First Century*, and *The Future of International Business*. The program will also feature a number of corporate visits in which the Chinese businessmen will tour several highly successful and prominent American enterprises. The participants will also engage in cultural immersion seminars, covering topics from Boston History and American Politics to The Structure of American Wealth to American Leadership Practices.