

Speech on Opening Ceremony of Confucius Institute at

UMASS

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Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today is a great day; we are here to celebrate the opening of the
Confucius Institute at UMASS set up jointly by UMASS, Renmin
University, and The High School Affiliated To Renmin University
(RDFZ). This is the very first Confucius Institute that a high school
has ever been involved in its establishment. UMASS is also the first
partner we choose for the setting up of Confucius Institute aboard.

As we all know UMASS has a long history of 143 years and made a

lot of contributions to the development of economy, culture and education in the United States of America. And RDFZ has a history of 56 years, and now becomes one of the best high schools in China with a good reputation home and abroad. We have been sister schools with quite a few international prestigious high schools like Edon College in UK and Phillips Academy Andover.

One month ago, Mr. President of UMASS and his group have paid a visit to our school; it has been a great honor for us.

Today we are here, standing on your beautiful campus, in this famous historic city, enjoying its art and culture. We are much honored to be here to celebrate the opening of the Confucius Institute at UMASS. We are very pleased to work with UMASS on the setting up of the Confucius Institute at UMASS.

Both US and China attach great importance to education and both of our countries have distinguished culture heritage.

China is an ancient country with long history and culture. It is a country of poetry. Confucius once said: Poetry can get into one's heart and bridge the gap between people from different cultures and nations. Poetry can criticize the social unjustness and bring us to understand and respect each other. Poetry can lead us to the

society of great harmony. Poetry can be the history, can be the philosophy.

The pioneers brought European culture to the States, we could easily link those giants name with America, for instance, Eugene O'Neill, Saul Bellow, Pearl Buck, William Faulkner Ernest Hemingway, Sinclair Lewis and John Steinbeck, whom have all won the Nobel Prize in literature.

For Chinese people, Boston is a place attracting many talents from all over the world. Many Nobel Prize winners, famous scholars and entrepreneurs are all from this city.

Walking on the campus and seeing the students reading and talking on the green grassland in the beautiful sunshine, it reminds me of the school where Confucius taught 2500 years ago. He believed that the beautiful natural environment could cultivate the spirit of students. Setting up Confucius Institute at UMASS, a place with rich culture and natural beauty, I believe it can not only attract many students, but also contribute to the cultural exchange between US and China.

Both China and US have the extensive and developed educational

systems and structures, and both have been very proud to have the great educators like Confucius in China and John Dewey in US.

Their ideas and teachings have been part of our cultural heritage and influenced us for hundreds of years. Though China and US have our own unique languages and cultural identity, we share many common principles and ideas. The establishment of the Confucius Institute at UMASS is a good bridge linking China and US together, and providing a window for better understanding of our two languages and cultures.

The world is becoming more and more versatile and colorful, communication and learning from each other is very vital. Language learning and teaching is becoming the key to the understanding of different nations and cultures.

We are much honored to work with UMASS in the establishment of the Confucius Institute at UMASS. We firmly believe it will become a good place to learn about Chinese language, history, and the development, and the base for Chinese language teachers training in Massachusetts and neighboring states.

We wish the establishment of the Confucius Institute at UMASS will

benefit hundreds and thousands of students who want to learn about Chinese language and China. We wish the Confucius Institute at UMASS will be a success and a good example of the cultural exchange between China and US.

Thank you.

The University of Massachusetts Medical School's Craig C. Mello, PhD, and his colleague Andrew Fire, PhD, of Stanford University, have been awarded The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for 2006 for their discoveries related to RNA interference.

"This is an incredible day for the University of Massachusetts Medical School. We are so very proud that Dr. Mello is the Medical School's first recipient of this illustrious prize. His enthusiasm for scientific pursuits and innovation is an inspiration to his faculty colleagues, postdoctoral fellows, students and staff alike," said Chancellor and Dean Aaron Lazare.

For more than 140 years, the University of Massachusetts has been providing high quality educational opportunities for Massachusetts residents and for students and faculty from all over the world.

Our 11,000 annual graduates enrich the Commonwealth, our industries, and society. The nearly 60,000 students we educate each year are predominantly drawn from the region and remain here after graduation. More than 220,000 UMass alumni live in Massachusetts, forming the foundation of the state's workforce and contributing enormously to our knowledge-based economy.

With more than \$375 million in annual research funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, our corporate partners, and other Federal and Private Foundations, the University of Massachusetts is one of the three largest research universities in the Commonwealth and is rated as one of the top Universities in the world by organizations such as the Times of London. Our five campuses serve every region of the state, making UMass the engine for economic and social development across Massachusetts.

Our commitment to meet our student's demonstrated financial need means that no student is denied access to a high quality university education.

The University is entering a growth period. We're investing in increased student financial aid, new faculty and new facilities. We're building new laboratories, classrooms, and dormitories. At the same time, the number of applicants is rising annually at each of our campuses.

Through our efforts and the accomplishments of our faculty, staff, students, and alumni, the University of Massachusetts is increasingly being recognized as a great educational choice.

Jack M. Wilson, President

