



City of Seattle
Mayor Jenny A. Durkan

April 3, 2018

Weiliang Zhao, Superintendent
Chongqing Municipal Education Commission
No. 369, Beibinyilu Road, Jiangbei District
Chongqing, P.R. China, 400020

Dear Mr. Zhao,

I recently sent a letter of congratulations to the newly-elected Mayor of Chongqing, Tang Liangzhi, introducing myself as the recently elected mayor of Seattle and welcoming a delegation from Chongqing to Seattle to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Seattle-Chongqing Sister City relationship. This enduring friendship between our cities has benefited Seattle in many ways, including the development of the Seattle Chinese Garden.

Another significant area of partnership has been the launching in 2010 of the Confucius Institute of the State of Washington (CIWA). Our Confucius Institute represents a partnership between higher education institutions and K-12 (primary and secondary) schools and districts across both countries. The City of Seattle and Seattle Public Schools are pleased to be the K-12 partner with the Chongqing Municipal Education Commission. Through this partnership, our schools in Seattle have expanded the teaching and learning of Chinese language and culture and welcomed visiting teachers from Chongqing to Seattle.

This spring, Seattle is proud to be sending two student delegations to Chongqing to represent our City and Seattle Public Schools. They represent the best of student exchange opportunities between our countries and offer us all hope for future good relations between China and the United States. Chief Sealth International High School will send eight students and two staff to Chongqing March 31 – April 14, 2018. They will spend their time with their partner school, Nankai Secondary School, which has sent many student groups to Chief Sealth over the years. Beacon Hill International School (grade kindergarten through 5) will travel to Chongqing March 29 – April 5, then on to Chengdu and Beijing. There are 16 students traveling, accompanied by two teachers and 12 parents/family members. They will visit the Chongqing Renmin Primary School main campus and Jiefang Primary School.

Thank you for welcoming our students and teachers and families from Seattle. We hope they have a wonderful experience in our Sister City of Chongqing, and we look forward to continued cooperation between our schools and students.

Sincerely,

Jenny A. Durkan
Mayor of Seattle