

Speech

on

Feb.11, 2009 Farewell Dinner at San Jacinto Museum

Good evening,

“To love what you do and feels what it matters – how could anything be more fun?” By Feb.14 – it will be my thirteen years anniversary in USA. I have enjoyed very much for my decision and dedication to bridge peoples’ friendship, professional understandings and cooperation between the two greatest nations in the world. But none of those projects in the past years can compare with the honors I have got from the great city called La Porte, Texas!



No words can express myself enough how honored, thrilled and touched I have been to see how passionate and dedicated and what wonderful and detailed work each of our China team members from La Porte Education Foundation has been with their endless efforts on Global Exchange Project; to see how proud our Supt showed around his hometown, to hear his hallers to the cows, to see how caring he has been to make sure all kids liked the activities as well as the food he specially prepared; to see the town with the population of 77 people were suddenly sunshined and filled with the laughter and cheers from the Chinese and La Porte young visitors; to see how worried Terri got lost in this small town; to see Cherry – the Chinese girl made her determination for her future because of the great impacts and passions from her career mentor – Terri, Darla and Kathy; to see Yawen Li and Qiaochu Lin immediately became fans for a young handsome chemical engineer Gary from Sunoco because of his smartness, great knowledge and management abilities; to see how impressed and honored Xiaolong Zhang was when Mayor Porter came in person to take him to his office; to see how carefully Paula Swearingen took care of Shuyang Zhao and cooked the Chinese soup according to the young lady’s instructions; to see how enthusiastic Joanne took the trash bags going through each room in Round Top, and show the Chinese kids how to ride horse; to see how excited and proud a host parent - Denis Slate has been with his two great daughters both selected with 2008 and 2009 China trips and his great supports and hard work as our photographer I also want to thank Chinese government, Chinese Consulate in Houston, Tianjin city government and Nankai school for all your continuing supports to this project and to myself as well.

“Success in any endeavor does not happen by accident. Rather, it’s the result of deliberate decisions, conscious effort, and immense persistence... all directed at specific goals.” Please allow me to express my most sincere and hearty appreciation again here for the leadership and hard work from the great team of the foundation Rick Ewan, Don Empfield, Terri Cook, PAPA Pizitolla, Debra Machemehl (PS- for the incredible job on homestay) , Gloria Lair, Jim Griffin, Darla Wheel, Kathy Booth, School district, esp. Mr. Graham and Principle Joanne Kolius, Mayor Porter and your office; for all the kindness, patience, tolerance, hospitality and care from our host students and families, for all supports from industries and the whole community.

“Only passions, great passions, can elevate the soul to great things.” The great passions and efforts from all of you have surely touched these young hearts and their future life on both sides of the world! What a great honor I have to be one part of this wonderful project and to be one member of your greatest community!

Thank you !