

Do US-China educational exchanges serve American interests?

Participant Biographies



John R. Allen, President, The Brookings Institution

John R. Allen became president of the Brookings Institution in November 2017, having served as chair of security and strategy and a distinguished fellow in the Foreign Policy Program at Brookings. Allen is a retired U.S. Marine Corps four-star general, former special presidential envoy to the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL, and former commander of the NATO International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and U.S. Forces in Afghanistan. He holds degrees from the U.S. Naval Academy, Georgetown University, the Defense Intelligence College, and the National Defense University.



Lee C. Bollinger, President, Columbia University

Lee C. Bollinger became Columbia University's 19th president in 2002 and is the longest serving Ivy League president. He is Columbia's first Seth Low Professor of the University, a member of the Law School faculty, and one of the nation's preeminent First Amendment scholars. Bollinger is the author or co-editor of numerous books on freedom of speech and press, including *National Security, Leaks and Freedom of the Press: The Pentagon Papers Fifty Years On* (2021), *Regardless of Frontiers: Global Freedom of Expression in a Troubled World* (2021), and *The Free Speech Century* (2018). President Bollinger is a member of the Pulitzer Prize Board and a co-founder of the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University, a center devoted to defending speech and press freedoms in the digital age through litigation, scholarship, and public education. In 2017, Bollinger founded Columbia World Projects, an initiative that mobilizes the University's researchers and scholars to work with governments, organizations, businesses, and communities to tackle global challenges. A fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society, Bollinger is also the recipient of multiple honorary degrees from universities in the United States and abroad.



Amb. Julia Chang Bloch, President, U.S.-China Education Trust

Ambassador Julia Chang Bloch is founding president of the U.S.-China Education Trust. She was the first U.S. ambassador of Asian descent in U.S. history. She has had an extensive career in international affairs and government service, beginning in 1964 as a Peace Corps volunteer in Sabah, Malaysia, and culminating as U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Nepal in 1989. From 1981 to 1988, Ambassador Bloch served at the U.S. Agency for International Development as assistant administrator of Food for Peace and Voluntary Assistance and as assistant administrator for Asia and the Near East. Ambassador Bloch moved to the corporate sector in 1993, becoming group executive vice president at the Bank of America, where she created the Corporate Relations Department, heading the bank's public relations, government affairs, and public policy operations. She also was the chief minority counsel to a Senate Select Committee; a Senate professional staff member; deputy director of the Office of African Affairs at the U.S. Information Agency; a fellow of the Institute of Politics at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, and an associate of the U.S.- Japan Relations Program of the Center for International Affairs at Harvard.



Kurt T. Dirks, Vice Chancellor for International Affairs; Director, McDonnell International Scholars Academy, Washington University in St. Louis

Kurt T. Dirks, the Bank of America Professor of Leadership, serves as the vice chancellor for international affairs and director of the McDonnell International Scholars Academy for Washington University in St. Louis. Kurt works closely with stakeholders across the university to advance the research and education mission for Washington University through global engagement. The McDonnell Academy recruits outstanding Ph.D. and Master's students from a broad range of academic disciplines and a diverse set of countries to develop their leadership abilities and create a unique global community. The McDonnell Academy also fosters academic commerce with other international universities through a network of partners around the world. Kurt received a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota and a B.S. and M.S. from Iowa State University. His academic research is on the determinants, barriers, and outcomes of trust within organizations and institutions.



Richard Stengel, Senior Advisor, Snap Inc.; Former Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, Department of State

Richard Stengel is a Senior Advisor at Snapchat. He was the longest serving under secretary of state for public diplomacy and public affairs in American history (2013-16). While at the State Department, he helped modernize State's communications and led the department's efforts to counter the global rise of disinformation. He helped create and oversee the Global Engagement Center, the United States' only entity tasked with fighting the global information war. Stengel also oversaw the department's communications and State's extensive educational exchanges, including the Fulbright Scholarship. Stengel was the editor of TIME from 2006 until 2013, where he oversaw all print, digital and international operations. During his time there he turned the brand into a global digital player and won the Magazine of the Year award in 2012 as well as an Emmy award. Stengel is the author of several books, including *Information Wars: How We Lost the Global Battle Against Disinformation and What We Can Do About It*, which is based on his time as under secretary of state, and *Mandela's Way*, about his time collaborating with Nelson Mandela on the South African leader's autobiography, *Long Walk to Freedom*.



Jeffrey Lehman, Vice Chancellor, NYU Shanghai; Former President, Cornell University

Jeffrey Sean Lehman serves as the founding vice chancellor of NYU Shanghai (the first "Sino-American Joint University") and chair of the Board of Governors of the American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai. He has worked full-time in China for 13 years. He has previously been president of Cornell University, dean of the University of Michigan Law School, and founding dean of the Peking University School of Transnational Law. Early in his career, he was a law clerk to Chief Judge Frank Coffin of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit and to Associate Justice John Paul Stevens of the U.S.

Supreme Court, a practicing attorney in Washington, D.C., and a tenured professor of law and public policy at the University of Michigan. He has previously been co-convenor of the U.S.-China Trade Policy Working Group, chair of the Institute for China-U.S. Law and Policy Studies, chair of Internet2, president of the American Law Deans Association, a trustee of the Skadden Fellowship Foundation, and an independent director of Infosys, Ltd. He was a member of the American delegation to the China-U.S. Legal Experts Dialogue and as a member of the Planning Committee for President Clinton's 1999 "Call to Action" to the legal profession.



Cheng Li, Director and Senior Fellow, John L. Thornton China Center, The Brookings Institution

Cheng Li is Director and Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution's John L. Thornton China Center. Dr. Li is also a director of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, a Distinguished Fellow of the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at University of Toronto, and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Dr. Li has advised a wide range of U.S. government, education, research, business and not-for-profit organizations on work in China. Dr. Li received an M.A. in Asian Studies from the University of California at Berkeley and a Ph.D. in Political Science from Princeton University.

He is the author of the forthcoming book *Middle Class Shanghai Reshaping U.S.-China Engagement* and editor (with author Li Chunling) of the forthcoming volume in the Brookings China Thinker's Series *China's Youth: Increasing Diversity amid Persistent Inequality*.



Ted Mitchell, President, American Council on Education

Ted Mitchell is president of the American Council on Education, the major coordinating body for America's colleges and universities. Prior to coming to ACE, he was under secretary of the United States Department of Education, responsible for all post-secondary and adult education policy and programs as well as the \$1.3 trillion Federal Student Aid Portfolio. Prior to his federal service, Mitchell was CEO of the NewSchools Venture Fund, a national investor in education innovation. He has served as president of the California State Board of Education, president of Occidental College, and in a variety

of leadership roles at UCLA, including vice chancellor. Mitchell was deputy to the president and the provost at Stanford University and began his career as a professor at Dartmouth College, where he also served as chair of the Department of Education.



Amb. J. Stapleton Roy, Founding Director Emeritus, Kissinger Institute on China and the United States; Former U.S. Ambassador to China

Ambassador J. Stapleton (Stape) Roy is a distinguished scholar and founding director emeritus of the Kissinger Institute on China and the United States at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Stape Roy was born in China and spent much of his youth there during the upheavals of World War II and the communist revolution, where he watched the battle for Shanghai from the roof of the Shanghai American School. He joined the U.S. Foreign Service immediately after graduating from Princeton in 1956, retiring 45 years later with the rank of Career Ambassador, the highest in the service. In 1978, he participated in the secret negotiations that led to the establishment of U.S.-PRC diplomatic relations. During a career focused on East Asia and the Soviet Union, Stape's ambassadorial assignments included Singapore, China, and Indonesia. His final post with the State Department was as assistant secretary for intelligence and research. On retirement he joined Kissinger Associates, Inc., a strategic consulting firm, before joining the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in September 2008 to head the newly created Kissinger Institute. In 2001, he received Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson Award for Distinguished Public Service.



Susan A. Thornton, Nonresident Senior Fellow, John L. Thornton China Center, The Brookings Institution; Former Acting Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs

Susan A. Thornton is a retired senior U.S. diplomat with almost 30 years of experience with the U.S. State Department in Eurasia and East Asia. She is currently a senior fellow and research scholar at the Yale University Law School Paul Tsai China Center, director of the Forum on Asia-Pacific Security at the National Committee on American Foreign Policy, and a nonresident senior fellow in the John L. Thornton China Center at the Brookings Institution. Until July 2018, Thornton was acting assistant secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs at the Department of State and led East Asia policy making amid crises with North Korea, escalating trade tensions with China, and a fast-changing international environment. In previous State Department roles, she worked on U.S. policy toward China, Korea and the former Soviet Union, and served in leadership positions at U.S. embassies in Central Asia, Russia, the Caucasus, and China. Thornton received an M.A. in International Relations from Johns Hopkins SAIS and a B.A. from Bowdoin College in Economics and Russian. She serves on several non-profit boards, speaks Mandarin and Russian, and lives on an organic farm in Lisbon, Maine.