OU expands partnerships with universities in China

Meeting with Vice President Shijie YU, who is in charge of the international affairs of Beijing Information Science & Technology University (BISTU)

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Oakland University leaders recently traveled to China to strengthen and expand partnerships at three STEM-focused universities.

Louay Chamra, dean of Oakland's School of Engineering and Computer Science, Lianxiang Yang, distinguished professor of mechanical engineering and Gary Barber, professor of mechanical engineering – as well as James Lentini, provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs – were part of a delegation that signed new agreements that will build upon partnerships with Changchun University of Technology (CCUT), Zhengzhou University of Light Industry (ZZULI) and Beijing Information Science & Technology University (BISTU).

At CCUT, OU signed a new Agreement for American Semester Abroad Program that will host up to 35 undergraduate or graduate students at OU. There was also an opening ceremony for the OU-CCUT international program that was attended by 200 students and parents to learn more about the program from a panel of OU and CCUT professors and administrators.

With ZZULI, OU signed a Memorandum of Understanding for a new joint institute to deliver Engineering and Computer Science programs at ZZULI sponsored by the Chinese Ministry of Education. Leaders visited BISTU to discuss existing programs and also share ideas about new joint programs. As a result of the partnerships, Oakland currently enrolls about 40 students per year from the Chinese universities.

"We have been successfully partnering with universities in China for 10 years, and our partners all indicated that they are pleased with the collaboration," Lentini said. "We even heard that we are the most successful international program that one of our partners has, even though they have 100 partnerships with many top-tier universities."