



Why the Centennial Colloquium on Dewey?

About the Centennial Colloquium

- In the late 1800s, University of Chicago Laboratory Schools founder John Dewey developed a philosophy of education to meet the needs of a changing society—a philosophy based on his belief that humanity is best served by a democratic society of informed, engaged individuals.
- He introduced and tested this philosophy at Lab, and later, in 1919, he shared his work during two years of travel in China, drawing educators from across the country to his lectures at schools and universities.
- Dewey's students became leaders in education practice, policy, and research in the US and China.
- This conference, supported by a generous donor, commemorates the 100th anniversary of that transformative trip.

The University of Chicago and China

- The University of Chicago's rich history of scholarly collaboration with China dates to the early 1900s.
- University leaders and faculty helped establish the China Medical Board and Peking Union Medical College in 1914; founded a program in Far Eastern Studies in the 1930s, becoming an important center for the study of Chinese language and civilization; and delivered the first course in modern economics in 1980.
- The University has been home to many Chinese scientists who have made critical contributions to their fields, including Nobel laureates C.N. Yang, PhD '48, and T.D. Lee, PhD '50 (Physics, 1957) and Daniel Tsui, SM '63, PhD '67 (Physics, 1998).
- In the span of a century, research partnerships between University of Chicago scholars and their Chinese counterparts have blossomed into dozens of ongoing relationships spanning many fields of study.
- In 2010, the University of Chicago founded its Center in Beijing to support collaborations between scholars and students from China and the US, across academic disciplines. In 2014 the University opened the Center in Hong Kong, which houses the Asia Executive MBA Program and provides a base for students, faculty, researchers, and alumni in the region.
- Numerous undergraduate, graduate, and professional student programs provide opportunities for study, research, internships, career exploration and networking in China
- In the past decade, the University of Chicago has signed several Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with Chinese institutions in support of educational exchanges and research collaborations, including Peking, Fudan, and Tsinghua universities. Most recently, in January 2019, the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC) signed an MOU with the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences in support of a joint institute for researchers and faculty focused on energy and environmental issues and policies.

The Laboratory Schools and China

- Lab is committed to deepening the University's connection with China in the areas of pre-collegiate education and student experience.
- Lab has a new relationship with RDFZ, a high school in Beijing, creating mutual exchange opportunities.
- Thanks to a generous donor, students from Lab and the UChicago Charter School traveled to China last summer to follow the footsteps of John and Alice Dewey and document the experience in film, which will be shared at the Colloquium.
- Educators and researchers from China will travel to Lab for the Colloquium to exchange knowledge, observe our classrooms, participate in hands-on learning projects, and open the door to future opportunities.

Lab as a convener and place to influence and shape education

- Like the university it is a part of, Lab has always attracted daring thinkers undaunted by the status quo.
- From its earliest days, Lab convened researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to wrangle with important issues in education and advance the best ideas.
- The Centennial Colloquium presents the opportunity to embrace our history of being not just a school, but a *laboratory* school—a school that is always learning, always evolving, and always sharing and exchanging knowledge beyond our walls.

Opportunity for our students and faculty

The Centennial Colloquium is an opportunity for the Lab community to:

- Learn about Dewey and current issues in education in the US and China from leading scholars
- Increase learning exchange opportunities for our students and faculty, as well as our counterparts in China, fostering mutual scholarship and understanding
- Share who we are as a school and a community with educators and policymakers, as well as donors
- Come together and demonstrate one of our core beliefs as a community: that learning is an ongoing process that knows no boundaries

Service to mission of the University

- The Centennial Colloquium is an opportunity to build on the University's many collaborations with China and strengthen our standing as an integral component of the University.
- It is a means of reaffirming Lab's position as a convener of original thinkers and an international leader in education, supporting the University's mission of influencing and shaping debate on the important issues of our day.
- It is a way to open doors for our students and faculty, and, like our founder and the University, to forge international relationships with lasting impact.