

**NUMBER OF HONG KONG STUDENTS AT U.S. INSTITUTIONS OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
JUMPS 7.8% IN 2007/2008**

**Hong Kong, November 17, 2008** -- According to *Open Doors 2008*, the annual report on international academic mobility published by the Institute of International Education (IIE) with support from the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the number of Hong Kong students enrolled in U.S. institutions of higher education increased from 7,722 to 8,286, a 7.8% increase over the 2006/07 academic year. The increase in 2007/2008 brings the number of students from Hong Kong in the U.S. to its highest point since 1998/1999.

Hong Kong now ranks as the 15<sup>th</sup> leading place of origin for students coming to the United States. The United Kingdom sends slightly more students to study in American institutions of higher education, as the 14<sup>th</sup> highest sending country with 8,367 students in the U.S. The number of students from Macau studying in the U.S. in 2007/2008 rose by 8.5% to 421.

This year's *Open Doors* report shows that the total number of international students at colleges and universities in the United States increased by 7% to a record high of 623,805 in the 2007/08 academic year, and the total number now exceeds by 6% the previous all-time high of 586,323 reported in 2002/03. *Open Doors* data show an even stronger increase in the number of "new" international students, those enrolled for the first time at a U.S. college or university in fall 2007. New international student enrollments rose by 10%, following on increases of 10% and 8% for the previous two years.

According to Ann White, Director, China-Hong Kong for the Institute of International Education, "The U.S. remains the preferred destination for students from Hong Kong who want to study abroad because of the quality and prestige associated with an American degree. Hong Kong students are drawn to the lifelong value and rewards of study in the United States. "

Another contributing factor is greater access to comprehensive and accurate information about study in the U.S. through the Hong Kong advising office of EducationUSA, which is supported by the U.S. Department of State, and an increased level of activity by United States colleges and universities to attract students from Hong Kong. The annual U.S. Higher Education Fair in Hong Kong, organized by IIE, attracted 25% more attendees in 2008 over the previous year.

The majority of students from Hong Kong study in the U.S. at the undergraduate level. In 2007/2008, their breakdown was as follows: 69.7 % undergraduate; 18.1% graduate; 4.4% other; and 7.7% were in Optional Practical Training status following receiving a U.S. degree. Of students from Macau in the U.S., 75.8% were undergraduates.

Students wishing to study in the United States can refer to [www.fundingUSstudy.org](http://www.fundingUSstudy.org) for information on an extensive database of scholarships, fellowships and grants organized and maintained by IIE. The *Funding for US Study websites* includes all types of funding programs, for all levels of post-secondary study, across the full range of academic areas.

According to Allan E. Goodman, President and CEO of the New York-based Institute of International Education, “The steady increase in the number of international students in the United States reflects actions taken by the U.S. government and many individual colleges and universities to ensure that international students know they are welcome here, and that we appreciate how they contribute to the intellectual and cultural environment on campus and in the wider community. Furthering academic exchange – in both directions – is one of the best investments that we can make to strengthen U.S. higher education and research activities and foster cross-border collaboration on shared global problems such as fighting disease, protecting the environment, and countering terrorism.”

*Open Doors 2008* also reported that 1,059 American students studied in Hong Kong in the 2006/07 academic year, an increase of 15.7%. The total number of Americans studying abroad increased by 8% to a total of 241,791, with the number of U.S. students electing to study in Asia increasing by 20 percent. Hong Kong is the 6<sup>th</sup> most popular destination in Asia for U.S. students.

This latest increase marks a decade of unprecedented growth in the number of American students receiving academic credit for their overseas academic experience,

with an increase of close to 150%, from under 100,000 in 1996/97 to nearly a quarter of a million in 2006/07. This increase is fueled in part by an increase in new program opportunities, partnerships between higher education institutions in the United States and abroad, and a range of fields and program durations to accommodate the needs of an increasingly diverse study abroad population.

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*The **Open Doors** report is published by the Institute of International Education, the leading not-for-profit educational and cultural exchange organization in the United States. IIE has conducted an annual statistical survey of the international students in the United States since 1949, and with support from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs since the early 1970s. The census is based on a survey of close to 3,000 accredited U.S. institutions. **Open Doors** also reports on surveys on international scholars at U.S. universities; international students enrolled in pre-academic Intensive English Programs; and on U.S. students studying abroad (since 1985). A full press kit and further details on the **Open Doors 2008** surveys and their findings can be accessed on [www.opendoors.iienetwork.org](http://www.opendoors.iienetwork.org), and the full 104 page report can be ordered for \$59.95 from IIE Books at [www.iiebooks.org](http://www.iiebooks.org).*