

WKU strives to be high-level university with global influence

By YUAN SHENGGAO

In November 2021, Wenzhou-Kean University, a Sino-foreign cooperative university based in the city of Wenzhou in East China's Zhejiang province, ushers in its 10th anniversary.

Looking back on the 10-year journey, the university has achieved fruitful outcomes with more than 2,100 graduates starting at the university and heading out onto the world stage, according to Wang Li, Chancellor of the university.

In the next 10-year chapter, the chancellor said he has rosy prospects. "While expanding the scale, we must comprehensively improve the quality of talent training."

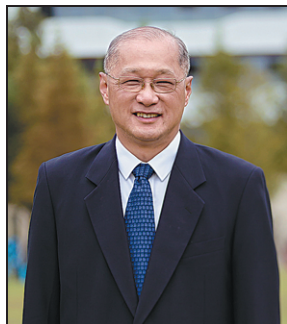
He told students to cherish the university's international environment and learning experience that lay a solid foundation of skills, cultivating patriotism, social responsibility and innovative spirits.

He expects WKU students and alumni to be outstanding talents who can adapt to reality and contribute their efforts to the development of the region and the country.

His high expectations for the students are related to the chancellor's personal experience.

For more than four decades, Wang has been adhering to a motto for life that all people should be responsible for the prosperity of the country.

Having been engaged in the research on functional polymers and nanomaterials for more than 30



Wang Li, Chancellor of Wenzhou-Kean University

years, Wang was a professor at Zhejiang University, enjoying the honorary title of Qiushi Distinguished Professor. He also worked in the foreign affairs and international education college at the university. In addition, Wang is a foreign academician of the Russian Academy of Engineering.

Over the past decades, he has visited more than 150 colleges, universities and institutions in more than 40 countries and regions, Wang recalled.

Traveling around the world as a scholar, Wang said he has firmly kept this motto in mind.

After receiving a PhD from Zhejiang University, he started working at Zhejiang University before he moved to work on postdoctoral research at the University of Waterloo in Canada in 1995.

When he and his wife were work-

ing on research in Canada, Wang received a letter from Zhejiang University, which totally changed his life trajectory.

In the letter, he was required to return to Zhejiang University as soon as possible.

Wang then decided to return to China with his wife and teach at Zhejiang University.

In 2019, Wang was appointed the chancellor of WKU. Established in 2011, WKU is a cooperative university.

Wang emphasized that WKU has been devoted to constantly exploring teaching improvements and upgrades over the past 10 years.

He said he attaches great significance to integrating teaching and scientific research in his management philosophy.

"For a scholar, academia is a life-long career. Combining scientific research and teaching is a necessity for a qualified college teacher," Wang said.

"I have communicated with numerous colleges and universities, and found that persistent study has been considered as the primary mission for the higher education in our country."

In 2020, WKU began to recruit students for postgraduate and doctoral studies.

"A university should play a leading role in contributing to the country's innovation and social progress," Wang said.

This year is not only the 10th anniversary of WKU, but also a crucial year for the university to embark on a new international development journey, according to Wang.

"I sincerely hope that in the future, I can lead the university to reach a new height and develop it into an international and high-level university," Wang said.

"Our aim is to cultivate our students with global vision, and outstanding capabilities to contribute to society."

In the future, Wang said WKU will insist on establishing itself as a "high-level and international" university, carrying on the historic mission and constantly exploring and innovating development paths. And WKU is also expected to be a leader in promoting the opening-up of education and set a role model for Sino-US higher-education cooperation.

Intl education a primary focus at joint institution of higher learning

By YUAN SHENGGAO

Starting from "zero", Wenzhou-Kean University, a cooperative higher-learning institution established by Wenzhou University in Zhejiang province and Kean University in New Jersey, the United States, took more than 10 years to develop a pioneering path of China-foreign cooperation in running schools.

Soon after its establishment in November 2011, WKU began to recruit 208 students in three undergraduate majors of economics, English and computer science in the form of the "China-US Cooperation Kean Project" in September 2012, exploring the implementation of a US educational model with small-size classes, English-only environment and inquiry-based learning approach.

Today, WKU has become an international university with 20 undergraduate majors and 11 master and doctoral majors.

It has been listed as "a key demonstration object of China-foreign cooperation in running schools and supporting the construction of international and

high-level universities" by the Ministry of Education and Zhejiang province. It has also been approved to set up a Graduate Record Examination test center, becoming the only GRE test center in southern Zhejiang.

The area of its beautiful international campus is constantly expanding, and "studying abroad at home" in WKU has become a new option for Chinese students who want to have internationalized education.

The university has recruited 287 teachers from 41 countries and regions worldwide.

Over the past 10 years, WKU has trained hundreds of international students and students from China's Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan.

The total number of exchange students between WKU and Kean University has surpassed 1,200 to date.

The university has established research cooperation with world-class universities such as the University of Oxford, the University of Cambridge, Yale University, and Hong Kong Polytechnic University, and has cultivated a

batch of international talents with global vision and patriotic sentiments.

By 2020, among the 1,600-plus graduates of the past five years, 126 have entered the University of Sydney, which ranks 40th in the QS World University Rankings, 35 have entered the University College London, which ranks 10th in the rankings, and 24 have entered Columbia University, an Ivy League school in the US, for postgraduate studies.

Its rate of graduates pursuing postgraduate programs in 2019 ranked 13th in the 2020 Shanghai Ranking's Academic Ranking of Chinese Universities.

In addition, WKU has established research institutions such as the Zhejiang Kean Entrepreneurship and Innovation Research Institute, the Wenzhou Industrial Economy Research Base, the Institute of Asian Industry Competitiveness, the Autism Research Center and Creative City Research Center, guiding college talents to carry out academic research in the fields of market expansion, business model innovation, business strategy and competitiveness to boost local economic development.

When drafting its strategic development plan for 2015-20, Dawood Farahi, former president of Kean University, proposed that WKU develop a world-class campus and facilities, world-class scientific research, world-class teachers and a world-class administrative management system.

In the 2020-25 period, the university will further expand its enrollment scale, increase investment in infrastructure construction, set up master and doctoral programs, and vigorously conduct scientific research. By 2025, the number of students in the school is expected to reach 7,000, including 500 master's and doctoral students, 31 majors and 11 master and doctoral majors.



The 10-year-old Wenzhou-Kean University is a role model for Sino-foreign cooperation in running schools. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

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