



UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

BARBARA A. MIKULSKI
MARYLAND

February 21, 2011

Dr. Martin Ma, President
International Consortium for University Exchanges
155 Gibbs Street, Unit 522
Rockville, Maryland 20850-0392

Dear Dr. Ma & Friends:

Greetings and Happy New Year to the members and guests of the International Consortium for University Exchanges on the occasion of the performance of the China Acrobatics Troupe which celebrates the Asian Lunar New Year Festival. Thank you for the kind invitation to share this exciting event with all of my good friends from the Asian Pacific American community. I send a special welcome to your distinguished guest, the Chinese Ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Zhang Yesui.

From modest beginnings, ICUE-USA has flourished and grown to successfully promote and support cooperative educational programs with exchange students and scholars at college and universities in both China and the United States. I am very proud that you have chosen to locate your headquarters in the Great State of Maryland.

It is always a great joy for me to join in the festivities for the Lunar New Year. This ancient annual celebration is just one example of the many rich traditions that Chinese Americans bring to the mosaic of ethnicities and cultures that is our great nation. In this Year of the Rabbit, the emblem of endurance and longevity, we are reminded of this animal's traditional attributes of graciousness, good manners, sound counsel, kindness and sensitivity to beauty.

Friends, it is a privilege to join with you to honor the vision you have for your future and the respect you have for those who came before. We welcome the New Year with all of its exciting challenges and rewards. Enjoy the spectacle of the lantern festival, the dragon dances, and the firecrackers. My message to you is one of peace, prosperity, good will, and brotherhood.

All good things,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara A. Mikulski".

Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator