Meet Shouan Pan

Introduction by Joe Phillips

It is my pleasure to introduce our newest member, Shouan Pan, who serves as Chancellor of the Seattle Colleges. In this role, he oversees Central, North, and South Seattle Community Colleges and their 50,000 students. Shouan has been nominated by his predecessor, Jill Wakefield.

Shouan was born in Hefei, China and after earning his undergraduate degree in English from Hefei Polytechnic



University, and in order to polish his English skills, he enrolled in a one year language program at the University of Pittsburgh. On the verge of returning to China, he ran into a representative of Colorado State University who convinced him to apply to their graduate program in student development, and that marks the beginning of his career in US higher education.

After earning his Master's in College Student Personnel at CSU, he went to Iowa State and earned a PhD in Higher Education.

One year of teaching student development convinced him that he would rather do student development work than teach it, and the result has been a 25 year career in higher education, stretching from Arizona, to Philadelphia, then to Jacksonville, then St. Petersburg, and then in 2008 he was appointed president of Mesa Community College in Arizona. This past July, he was selected as Chancellor for the Seattle Colleges.

Throughout his career, Dr. Pan has received honors and awards for his excellence as an academic administrator, such as the Paul Elsner International Excellence in Leadership Award and the Shirley B. Gordon Award from the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

In taking on the important role of Chancellor, Dr. Pan will face the challenges of declining enrollments resulting from the strong Seattle economy as well as significant underfunding in critical areas such as faculty salaries. When you meet with Shouan, you will see he's the right person for this challenge.

Shouan is married to Queenie Chen, and they have two sons, one attending Arizona State and the other working for Cisco in North Carolina. Outside of work, he enjoys Tai Chi, Peking Opera, and gardening.

Please join me in welcoming our newest member, Shouan Pen.