



**THE WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE ON
EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS**

July 2, 2014

Regina Jackson
East Oakland Youth Development Center
8200 International Boulevard
Oakland, CA 94621

Dear Ms. Jackson,

On behalf of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans, I commend you and your delegates for leaving your familiar settings in order to promote and pursue international education through the Oakland China Exchange Program. Your adventure to Beijing and Shanghai will be an enriching experience that will surely transform you into more global thinkers. As globalism predominates present day affairs, these are the kinds of minds America idolizes for its future leaders. To the delegates, I am proud of you all for pioneering as young African American students immersing yourselves in Chinese culture and encourage you all to remember how you are setting the standard for other young men and women of color to follow in your footsteps.

I can only imagine the kinds of obstacles culture shock will present you early on, but I am confident that you all will not only adjust accordingly but will accept the challenge and use it as an opportunity to develop a sense of cultural awareness and to function as competent global citizens. I am thrilled about the mission of this program and its commitment to improving the academic opportunities for African American youth so that they too can thrive as intellectuals. Programs like these are what make the priorities of the Initiative seem close at hand. We wish you all the best.

Congratulations!

Sincerely,

David Johns
Executive Director

White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans