



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 14, 2025

Vincent Price
President
Duke University
207 Allen Building
Box 90001
Durham, NC 27708

Dear President Price:

We write to express serious concerns regarding Duke University's partnership with Wuhan University through Duke Kunshan University (DKU), a joint venture that is advancing China's military and technological ambitions at the expense of the American taxpayer. DKU, launched in 2018 in the People's Republic of China (PRC), now enrolls over 3,000 students across undergraduate, master's, and doctoral programs and specializes in high-technology fields with direct military applications, including data science, artificial intelligence, and materials science.¹ As part of these programs, many DKU students spend time at Duke University, gaining access to federally funded U.S. research. Given the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) well-documented efforts to exploit U.S. academic openness, this partnership creates a direct pipeline between U.S. innovation and China's military-industrial complex. Additionally, the website for DKU includes a page dedicated to PRC military training. The page shows students in uniforms participating in hand-to-hand combat and shooting drills.² That Duke would lend its name to military training for the PRC is appalling. For all these reasons and in light of the facts below, we urge you to terminate Duke's PRC collaborations.

A recent joint report from the U.S. House Select Committee on Strategic Competition between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party and the House Committee on Education and Workforce documented several case studies in which American researchers, using expertise and capabilities developed through federally funded research, have enabled the PRC to achieve significant technological advancements, especially in critical and emerging technologies essential for American innovation.³ The report specifically identifies U.S.-PRC joint institutes

¹ Duke Kunshan University, Chinese-Foreign Cooperation in Running Schools, <https://web.archive.org/web/20240721163828/https://www.crs.jsj.edu.cn/aproval/detail/1004>; Duke and Duke Kunshan University, Duke University, <https://dkurelations.duke.edu/>.

² Duke Kunshan University, Military Training, <https://web.archive.org/web/20250501154723/https://campus-life.dukekunshan.edu.cn/css/military-training/>.

³ Select Committee on the CCP and Committee on Education & Workforce, *CCP on the Quad: How American Taxpayers and Universities Fund the CCP's Advanced Military and Technological Research* (Oct. 7, 2024),

and academic programs as channels through which sensitive U.S. technologies and research expertise are transferred to the PRC, directly supporting the PRC's defense industry and military modernization efforts.

Already, four American universities—including Oakland University, Georgia Institute of Technology, University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Michigan—have terminated their joint institutes with PRC institutions.⁴ Their decisive actions reflect agreement that U.S. universities must not continue partnerships that force American taxpayers to fund weapons that could one day be used against our own military service members and citizens. Following these clear precedents, we strongly urge you to end your partnership with Wuhan University.

Wuhan University is not an ordinary academic institution. It is a direct extension of the Chinese military and intelligence apparatus. Since 2016, it has been jointly supervised by the Ministry of Education and the State Administration of Science, Technology, and Industry for National Defense (SASTIND), China's national defense technology agency, which oversees military research and nuclear weapons programs.⁵ Wuhan University operates multiple national defense research laboratories,⁶ conducts research in at least five designated defense research areas,⁷ trains People's Liberation Army (PLA) cyber warfare specialists,⁸ and plays a central role in China's Beidou satellite system,⁹ which supports missile guidance and military intelligence operations. This is the university Duke has chosen as a partner.

<https://selectcommitteeontheccp.house.gov/media/reports/ccp-quad-how-american-taxpayers-and-universities-fund-ccps-advanced-military-and->

⁴ John Moolenaar, *Letter to President Santa Ono, Urging Closure of University of Michigan's Partnership with Shanghai Jiao Tong University* (Oct. 31, 2024), <https://selectcommitteeontheccp.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/selectcommitteeontheccp.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2024-10-31%20-%20Letter%20to%20U-M%20re%20Research%20Security%20House%20Select%20Cmte%20CCP.pdf>; *University of Michigan to End Joint Institute with Chinese University*, Press Release, House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party (Jan. 10, 2025), <https://selectcommitteeontheccp.house.gov/media/press-releases/university-michigan-end-joint-institute-chinese-university#:~:text=U%2DM%20is%20the%20third%20American,concerns%20about%20national%20security%20risks>.

⁵ SASTIND supervises universities like Wuhan University specifically to “strengthen military forces with additional personnel and more advanced equipment” through leveraging their research and resources. *See* Wuhan University Joins Universities Co-Established by the National Defense Science and Technology Industry Bureau and the Ministry of Education, Wuhan University (June 27, 2016), <https://web.archive.org/web/20190814011517/https://news.whu.edu.cn/info/1002/46364.htm>.

⁶ Wuhan University operates multiple military labs including cyberattack facilities, PLA cryptography centers, and satellite navigation research that are jointly run with or deliberately omitted from official Ministry of Education listings. *See* Wuhan University, Australian Strategic Policy Institute, <https://unitracker.aspi.org.au/universities/wuhan-university/>.

⁷ Wuhan University maintains at least five designated defense research areas—electromagnetic theory, system modeling, control engineering, radio wave propagation, and explosion mechanics—with ongoing efforts to expand military applications in maritime navigation. *See Id.*

⁸ For example, U.S. and Taiwanese officials have identified Wuhan University's Key Laboratory of Aerospace Information Security as conducting cyber-attacks for the PLA, receiving funding from PLA Unit 61478, and actively training military hackers. *See Id.*

⁹ The university is an important site of research for China's Beidou satellite navigation system. *See Id.*

Moreover, Duke Kunshan University researchers have published papers with Chinese defense scientists from firms, including Huawei,¹⁰ Tencent,¹¹ and Lenovo,¹² that are at the forefront of Beijing's military-civil fusion strategy. Many DKU graduates have gone on to work at these companies.¹³ These partnerships contribute to Beijing's broader efforts to integrate civilian technological advancements into defense applications, reinforcing the strategic alignment between China's private sector, research institutions, and military objectives.

This military alignment extends to Duke Kunshan University, which is deeply integrated with Wuhan University's research and personnel pipeline. DKU operates under PRC laws requiring ideological training and military preparation.¹⁴ Its students undergo mandatory military training,¹⁵ and the campus maintains an active Communist Youth League chapter—a direct vehicle for CCP indoctrination.¹⁶

¹⁰ For example, *see* Claire Glanois et al., A Survey on Interpretable Reinforcement Learning, Machine Learning (Apr. 19, 2024); Xuchuan Luo et al., CHIME: A Cache-Efficient and High-Performance Hybrid Index on Disaggregated Memory, Proceedings of the ACM SIGOPS 30th Symposium on Operating Systems Principles (Nov. 15, 2024); Peter Reyes, Huawei patent voiceprint recognition technology for voice unlock feature, Duke Kunshan University,

<https://web.archive.org/web/20250226143624/https://consumer.huawei.com/ph/community/details/topicId-121711/>.

¹¹ For examples, *see* Weicheng Cai et al., A Novel Learnable Dictionary Encoding Layer for End-to-End Language Identification, 2018 IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing (2018); Weicheng Cai et al., Utterance-Level End-to-End Language Identification Using Attention-Based CNN-BLSTM, 2019 IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing (2019); Xiaoyi Qin et al., Simple Attention Module Based Speaker Verification with Iterative Noisy Label Detection, 2022 IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing (2022).

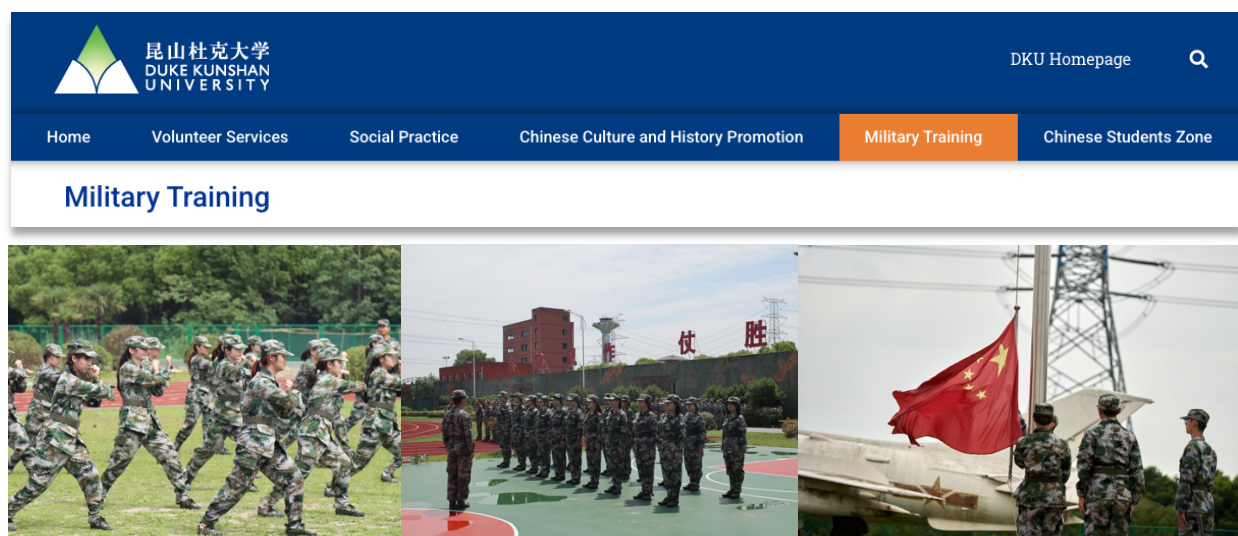
¹² Duke Kunshan and Lenovo formalize strategic collaboration, Duke Kunshan University (Dec. 20, 2020), <https://web.archive.org/web/20250225171430/https://news.dukekunshan.edu.cn/campus-news/duke-kunshan-and-lenovo-formalize-strategic-collaboration/>; Qingjian Li et al., Towards Lightweight Applications: Asymmetric Enroll-Verify Structure for Speaker Verification, 2022 IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing (2022); Murong Ma et al., Acoustic Word Embedding System for Code-Switching Query-by-Example Spoken Term Detection, 12th International Symposium on Chinese Spoken Language Processing (2021); Xiaoyi Qin et al., VC-AUG: Voice Conversion Based Data Augmentation for Text-Dependent Speaker Verification, Man-Machine Speech Communication (May 10, 2023); Weiqing Wang et al., The DKU-Duke-Lenovo System Description for the Fearless Steps Challenge Phase III, INTERSPEECH 2021 (2021).

¹³ Good News | From Duke Kunshan to Silicon Valley, Duke Kunshan University (Mar. 8, 2022), <https://web.archive.org/web/20250225180338/https://news.dukekunshan.edu.cn/zh-hans/campus-news/duke-kunshan-silicon-valley/>; Record year for international undergraduate applications to DKU, Duke Kunshan University (Jan. 19, 2024), <https://web.archive.org/web/20250225180515/https://news.dukekunshan.edu.cn/campus-news/record-year-for-international-undergraduate-applications-to-dku/>.

¹⁴ Military Training, Duke Kunshan University, <https://web.archive.org/web/20250225181500/https://campus-life.dukekunshan.edu.cn/css/military-training/>.

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ Youth League or CPC Related, Duke Kunshan University, <https://web.archive.org/web/20250225183000/https://campus-life.dukekunshan.edu.cn/css/chinese-students-zone/#CPC-or-Youth-League-Related>.



Images from Duke Kunshan University's official "Military Training" page show students undergoing PLA drills, saluting the CCP flag, and marching in formations modeled on Chinese military training—revealing the Joint Institute's role in indoctrinating youth and preparing them to fight future wars—including against Americans.

Wuhan University administration and faculty members hold joint appointments at DKU, positioning them to directly influence research priorities, train students, and recruit talent in critical fields targeted by Beijing's military-civil fusion strategy, including defense-grade energy systems, artificial intelligence, and biotechnology.¹⁷ Several members of DKU's Advisory Board have ties to Chinese government bodies, the CCP, and organizations linked to the United Front Work Department, a CCP system that coordinates influence operations targeting non-Communist groups to advance Party interests both domestically and internationally.¹⁸ Notably, Duke Law School graduate Gao Xiqing—former head of China's sovereign wealth fund and a longtime CCP member—has served as a National People's Congress delegate, highlighting the Party's enduring influence within Duke's own alumni network.¹⁹

¹⁷ For administrators serving in dual roles, *see* Leadership, Duke Kunshan University, <https://web.archive.org/web/20250311152717/https://www.dukekunshan.edu.cn/zh-hans/leadership/>. For faculty with joint appointments, *see* Li Ming, Duke Kunshan University, https://web.archive.org/web/20250311150426/https://faculty.dukekunshan.edu.cn/zh-hans/faculty_profiles/liming; Yan Lijing, Duke Kunshan University, https://web.archive.org/web/20250311151903/https://faculty.dukekunshan.edu.cn/zh-hans/faculty_profiles/yanlijing; Lin Xinrong, Duke Kunshan University, https://web.archive.org/web/20250311152324/https://faculty.dukekunshan.edu.cn/zh-hans/faculty_profiles/linxinrong; Lin Research Lab, Duke Kunshan University, https://web.archive.org/web/20250311152159/https://www.xrlinlab.com/?page_id=32295.

¹⁸ One such member is Wang Huiyao, who serves on Duke Kunshan University's advisory board while simultaneously acting as an adviser to the UFD, holding membership in several united front groups, and playing a significant role in developing China's talent recruitment strategy. *See* Advisory Board, Duke Kunshan University, <https://web.archive.org/web/20250311153045/https://www.dukekunshan.edu.cn/zh-hans/about/advisory-board/>.

¹⁹ Representative Information, National People's Congress, <https://web.archive.org/web/20160305235553/http://www.npc.gov.cn/delegate/viewDelegate.action?dbid=121489>.

Duke's partnership with Wuhan University has already enabled American taxpayer-funded military technology transfer to China. In 2012, Duke researchers developed gigapixel camera technology with \$25 million in Pentagon funding for military surveillance.²⁰ After the United States rejected the technology, the Principal Investigator relocated to China in 2016, joining Duke Kunshan University while collecting ¥500,000 from Jiangsu Province's 100-Talent Program and rebranding his U.S. startup as Aqueti China.²¹ Even prior to DKU's formal launch, Duke played a central role in enabling this transfer by establishing a research lab in 2017, backed by the Kunshan county government in China and Chinese investors, to refine and mass-produce these surveillance cameras.²² Today, this Duke-developed technology serves the CCP's vast surveillance apparatus, oppressing millions of people throughout China, including in Tiananmen Square.²³



Surveillance camera developed by Duke researchers with Pentagon funding, later transferred to China via Duke Kunshan University to support CCP surveillance (Wall Street Journal).

²⁰ Dathon R. Golish et al., Development of a scalable image formation pipeline for multiscale gigapixel photography, *Optics Express* (2012), <https://opg.optica.org/oe/fulltext.cfm?uri=oe-20-20-22048&id=241346>; Dawn Lim, Pentagon-funded gigapixel camera could transform crowd surveillance, *NextGov FCW* (June 21, 2012), <https://www.nextgov.com/emerging-tech/2012/06/pentagon-funded-gigapixel-camera-could-transform-crowd-surveillance/56389/>; Eric Beidel, 'Super' Camera Puts Human Eye to Shame, *National Defense* (Sept. 1, 2012), <https://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/articles/2012/9/1/2012september-super-camera-puts-human-eye-to-shame>.

²¹ Wenxin Fan, How a Powerful Spy Camera Invented at Duke Ended Up in China's Hands, *The Wall Street Journal* (June 11, 2018), <https://www.wsj.com/articles/how-a-powerful-spy-camera-invented-at-duke-ended-up-in-chinas-hands-1528714895>.

²² Duke Kunshan Professor David Brady Selected for Jiangsu Province 100-Talent Program, *Duke Kunshan University* (July 6, 2016), <https://news.dukekunshan.edu.cn/campus-news/david-brady-selected-for-100-talent-program/>; New Duke Kunshan lab to develop the next generation of gigapixel cameras, *Duke Kunshan University* (Jan. 26, 2017), *available at* <https://web.archive.org/web/20250226002451/https://news.dukekunshan.edu.cn/campus-news/new-duke-kunshan-lab-develop-next-generation-gigapixel-cameras>.

²³ *Id.*

Beyond technology transfer, a recent first-hand student account written in The Assembly exposed Duke Kunshan University's role in CCP propaganda operations when 62 Duke students found themselves ambushed by Chinese state media during a "free" trip in 2024.²⁴ "From the second we stepped into the airport," one student recalled, they were "swarmed" by media—with "28 cameras and like five video cameras" following their every move.²⁵ Students were coached to recite "I love China" in Mandarin on camera, while others were repeatedly pressed to "sa[y] what they wanted [students] to say" about issues like Chinese climate policies.²⁶ Students described feeling "used" as part of a "traveling circus" that was "paraded in front of local press"—their faces later appearing on state media.²⁷ This was not education but exploitation: a calculated component of Xi Jinping's "50,000 Initiative" with "no genuine cultural exchange."²⁸ Your university's partnership with Wuhan University directly facilitated the use of these American students as pawns for CCP propaganda.

Given your university's federal funding, your partnerships with PRC military-linked institutions represent a national security risk. These PRC collaborations jeopardize the integrity of U.S. research, risk the exploitation of sensitive technologies, and undermine taxpayer investments intended to strengthen America's technological and defense capabilities. The security of America's technological edge cannot be compromised. Therefore, you should end your PRC collaborations to prevent further PRC exploitation of U.S. research capabilities and taxpayer investments.

The House Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party has broad authority to investigate and submit policy recommendations on countering the economic, technological, security, and ideological threats of the Chinese Communist Party to the United States and allies and partners of the United States under H. Res. 5 Sec. 4(a).

The Committee on Education and Workforce has legislative and oversight jurisdiction over "education or labor generally" under House Rule X.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

²⁴ Jacqueline Cole, How I Accidentally Became Part of China's PR Campaign, The Assembly (Feb. 5, 2025), <https://www.theassemblync.com/education/higher-education/duke-kunshan-china/>.

²⁵ *Id.*

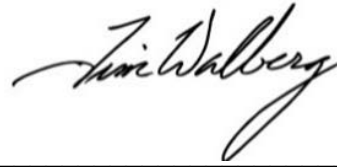
²⁶ *Id.*

²⁷ *Id.*

²⁸ *Id.*



John Moolenaar
Chairman
Select Committee on the CCP



Tim Walberg
Chairman
Committee on Education and Workforce