

**TEXAS SCORECARD**Robert Montoya <rmontoya@texasscorecard.com>

Media Inquiry—A&M and CCP

Brown, Kelly S <kelly.brown@tamu.edu>

Thu, Nov 30, 2023 at 12:21 PM

To: "rmontoya@texasscorecard.com" <rmontoya@texasscorecard.com>

Hi Robert,

Hope all is well in your world.

Below is a statement in response to your earlier inquiry. Hope this helps. If you do decide to go ahead with writing an article on this, we would appreciate inclusion of the entire statement. Thank you! Hope you have a great rest of your week.

Statement from The Texas A&M University System and Texas A&M:

Following a thorough review across the Texas A&M University System in 2021, officials with System entities terminated all high-risk engagements. As a result, we have no active research agreements with any countries of concern (including China).

Each of our international agreements is regularly reviewed by Texas A&M University personnel, as well as by The Texas A&M University System's Research Security Office. The System entities also work regularly with the FBI and members of Congress on security matters.

Texas A&M University currently has two student exchange agreements with one university in China – the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

Further, the Texas A&M System is a national leader in protecting sensitive information. The Texas A&M University System has been recognized three times since 2015 by the Department of Defense with the James S. Cogswell Award for Excellence in Industrial Security. The A&M System also has been recognized three times since 2017 by the Department of Defense with the Award for Excellence in Counterintelligence. Based on these honors, the program is in the top 1 percent of all cleared defense contractors.

Note: The two Education Abroad agreements are through the College of Engineering and Mays Business School.

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From: Robert Montoya <rmontoya@texasscorecard.com>
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2023 5:46 PM
To: BOR Email Account <bor@tamus.edu>
Subject: Media Inquiry—A&M and CCP

Board member,

Hope you're doing well. A response by noon Friday is requested.

Texas Scorecard has found multiple ties between Texas A&M and the Chinese Communist Party, or at the very least actors adjacent to the CCP.

Texas A&M's AgriLife Research, for example, [purchased](#) Hikvision surveillance cameras on four occasions in 2018, and Texas A&M International bought Dahua products in 2019. This took place just before Congress agreed to ban telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei, Hikvision, and Dahua for national security concerns. Are these products still in use by A&M?

The Bush School of Government and Public Service's Department of International Affairs has [open exchange agreements](#) with the Institute for International Studies in Shanghai, China Foreign Affairs University, and the Southwestern University of Finance and Economics for student foreign exchange programs. Why does Texas A&M maintain relationships with Chinese Communist Party universities?

Also, in 2013, Texas A&M's Nuclear Engineering Department had an agreement with Xi'an Jiaotong University—a university the Australian Strategic Policy Institute found was “high-risk” and holds “secret-level security credentials.” Is this relationship ongoing? What efforts, if any, did Texas A&M—a U.S. defense contractor—take to defend itself from espionage efforts from Xi'an Jiaotong? What was the justification for this relationship?

How instrumental has Neil Bush and the Bush School been in helping forge connections between Texas A&M and China?

In 2018 Mark Olsen, a tenured chemistry professor at Texas A&M Corpus Christi, joined the talent program in collaboration with Tianjin University, underscoring the capacity of talent programs to entice established professors from U.S. institutions.

Texas Scorecard has found over 30 Texas A&M professors who studied at institutions that participate in the Thousand Talents Plan. They are all are part of A&M's School of Engineering.

The Chinese Thousand Talents Plans, sometimes known as a "[Recruitment Program of Global Experts](#)," typically require a participant to enter into a contract with a Chinese University, like Wuhan, and are then subject to Chinese laws. According to the [FBI](#), these talent plans encourage members to engage in trade secret theft, thereby advancing China's national, military, and economic objectives.

What efforts has Texas A&M undertaken to ensure the Mark Olsen affair is not repeated, and to ensure that these more than 30 professors have been properly screened and are not engaged in espionage efforts?

Thanks,


Robert Montoya

Investigative Reporter

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