

China-Tennessee Rural Health Exchange

A Collaborative Initiative between the State of Tennessee and the Peoples Republic of China
May 12 – 24, 2008, Fogelman College of Business and Economics

In May 2008, a group of Chinese health care officials will attend a two-week training program offered by the Methodist Le Bonheur Center for Healthcare Economics. The Memphis program is a part of a larger initiative between the State of Tennessee and the Peoples Republic of China called the China-Tennessee Rural Health Exchange. Governor Bredesen initiated this international exchange program in October 2007 and President Shirley Raines of the University of Memphis and Dr. Cyril F. Chang both attended the formal agreement signing ceremony in Beijing, China, last fall. The inaugural training program is jointly sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development and the Chinese Ministry of Health and supported by Vanderbilt University, East Tennessee State University, and the University of Memphis.

The Rural Healthcare Exchange is timely. Last fall, as Governor Bredesen met with officials from the Ministry of Health, Chinese President, Hu Jintao and the 17th Party Congress articulated a vision for development in rural Central and Western China. As China seeks a way to improve its healthcare infrastructure, Tennessee is positioned to define and promote its unique scope of services.

Left: Signing of Letter of Agreement

Right: Governor Bredesen, Dr. Xu of the Chinese Ministry of Health and Dr. Cyril Chang

