National China town hall examines US-China relations

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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MISSOULA —

The University of Montana will host “CHINA Town Hall: Local Connections, National Reflections” at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8, in James E. Todd Building Room 210.

The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center will present the program, which features a nationwide webcast by Kurt Campbell, assistant secretary of state for the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, with opportunities for questions from the local audience. Campbell will address several key issues of U.S.-China relations. Following the webcast, UM China specialists Terry Weidner and Steven Levine will address a related issue in their presentation titled “Is China a Threat to the United States?”

The event, which is free and open to the public, is part of a national day of programming designed to provide Americans the opportunity to discuss China’s rapid development and other Sino-American relations that have a direct impact on nearly everyone in the U.S.

Before assuming his current position in June, Campbell was the CEO and co-founder of the Center for a New American Security and concurrently served as the director of the Aspen Strategy Group and chairman of the editorial board of The Washington Quarterly. He has served as deputy assistant secretary of defense for Asia and the Pacific, director on the National Security
Council staff, deputy special counselor to the president for NAFTA in the White House, and White House fellow at the Department of the Treasury.

"I've had the pleasure of hearing Kurt Campbell in person," Weidner said. "He not only has a deep understanding of Asia, but also is very articulate. I can't think of a better person for the webcast."

Weidner is the director of UM's Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center, which promotes mutual understanding between the United States and Asia. After earning his doctorate in Chinese history, he began his career in academics before spending six years as a Chinese political and economic analyst for the Foreign Broadcast Information Service in Washington, D.C., where he analyzed Chinese economic reform and U.S.-China relations using Chinese media. He also served as a political officer at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing.

Levine, associate director of the Mansfield Center, has been studying and writing about Chinese politics and China's international relations for more than 40 years. He is the author and co-editor of several books on modern Chinese history and also has written dozens of chapters, articles and review essays on China and related subjects.

The event is co-sponsored by UM Continuing Education, the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation, the Montana World Affairs Council and the National Committee on United States-China Relations.

For more information, visit http://www.umt.edu/mansfield or call 406-243-2988.

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