

Dear Principals, Counselors, Teachers, Parents and Students of Public and Private high schools in Eugene-Springfield area,

The City of Eugene has sister city programs with Korea, Japan, Nepal and Russia. The Korean sister city program started in 1961 and is in the 52<sup>nd</sup> year with various exchange programs. One of the successful programs has been the high school student exchanges since 2002. Eugene-Jinju (Chinju) Sister City Committee, Inc. (EJSC) is a not-for-profit 501(c) organization that runs the Eugene's Korean sister city program under the service contract with the City of Eugene.

**EJSC offers the following services to all Eugene area schools and students:**

- 1. Presentation about Korea including culture and Education fitting to one class-period by well prepared volunteer instructors at request**
- 2. Opportunities to become ambassadorial students of the City of Eugene for two weeks in South Korea at a mere cost of one airplane ticket earning community service credit in summer**
- 3. Opportunity to meet with or host inbound Korean exchange students in summer**
- 4. Opportunities to volunteer for EJSC**

**We hope you take advantage of our services and disseminate this information to proper faculty members or students.**

South Korea is the 5th largest trade partner of Oregon and 7<sup>th</sup> of the U.S. Korea is the best wired in internet access and mobile phones, one of the leaders in finished goods manufacturing in electronics, textiles, ships, automobiles, and steel in the world. K-Pop including PSY of Gangnam Style is very popular every corner of the world.

According to Huff Post Education ([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/07/23/us-students-still-lag-behind\\_n\\_1695516.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/07/23/us-students-still-lag-behind_n_1695516.html)), a report **recently published by Harvard University's Program on Education Policy and Governance** found that students in Latvia, Chile and Brazil are making gains in academics three times faster than American students, while those in Portugal, Hong Kong, Germany, Poland, Liechtenstein, Slovenia, Colombia and Lithuania are improving at twice the rate. A 2009 study found that U.S. students **ranked 25th among 34 countries in math and science**, behind nations like China, Singapore, **South Korea**, Hong Kong and Finland.

South Korea is about the half of Oregon in size, but with remarkable achievements. In short two weeks our students can experience cultures and life of a booming country at very low cost. Please refer to <http://www.eugene-chinju.org> for more detail.

Americans as well as Korean Americans celebrate **January 13 as Korean American Day** as declared by the U.S. Congress in 2003 to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of 102 Korean pioneer immigrants in Hawaii, who had come to work in the sugar cane fields. The Senate declared the year 2012-13 as the "Year of the Korean War Veterans" on November 27, 2012.

You, too, will be joining the celebrations by participating in Eugene's Korean sister city program.

Sincerely yours,

Ki-Won Rhew  
Program Director  
Eugene-Jinju (Chinju) Sister City Committee