

# University of Delaware Honorary Degree

**CHONGSHI ZHU**  
DOCTOR OF LAWS

**Respected economist**, born in the Fujian Province in the People's Republic of China, you graduated from the Department of Economics at Xiamen University and completed advanced study in the Department of Law at JiLin University with a focus on Economic Law. You went on to earn a PhD in Economics from the University of Belgrade, in the former Yugoslavia. You also spent a year in Boston on a Sino-US Fulbright as a visiting Professor at Harvard University and Boston University.

**Innovative educational leader**, since 2003, you have been President of Xiamen University. Recognized as among the top 35 universities in China and one of the top 500 universities in the world, Xiamen University has 38,000 students in its undergraduate, master's, and doctoral programs. During your tenure at Xiamen, you have established several new national laboratories, increased faculty research published in globally high-impact journals, and restructured Xiamen's traditional disciplines in order to promote interdisciplinary research and teaching. Your leadership in these areas ranks you as one of the thought leaders in China and puts Xiamen in the vanguard of Chinese institutions.

While making these strides, you simultaneously remained committed to undergraduate education. A stellar example of your efforts was the introduction of a tutor system to provide intellectual support for incoming students. You also introduced a long-term mechanism for ensuring teaching quality at your university.

In addition to enhancing research and educational innovation, you have instituted efforts to ensure that Xiamen University would be a leader around issues related to social responsibility. As such, two years ago, you convened high-level academic leaders from around the world for a forum on that topic at Xiamen University.

**Trailblazer in global education**, recognizing the importance of internationalization, you launched Xiamen University's International Postgraduate Programs in English to attract foreign students to China and you recently added bilingual undergraduate courses. Today, more than 3,000 international students study at Xiamen annually.

You have crafted partnerships between Xiamen and universities throughout the world, including the University of Delaware, to enable student and faculty exchange, collaborative research projects, and joint degree programs. Among the notable of such joint programs is the collaborative doctoral degree at Xiamen and UD that allows students to earn two doctoral degrees in oceanography, one from each institution. This partnership marked the first such collaborative degree in oceanography between the United States and China.

Through China's renowned Confucius Institute Program, you have led Xiamen University in partnerships with more than 14 institutions globally to promote greater understanding. One of these partnerships is with the University of Delaware, a program that benefits both UD and Xiamen University. As UD President Harker has noted, the Confucius Program allows UD to advance several of its most important goals, including expanding the university's international reach and amplifying its impact. It builds interest and competence in Chinese language and culture not only among the members of the University community but also in Delaware and surrounding areas.

In addition to leading Xiamen's Confucius partnerships, you have engaged your university in a number of multilateral consortiums, among them the Global Engineering Education Exchange, of which Xiamen is the first and so far only Chinese member.

Former South African President Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Chongshi Zhu, you have always recognized the importance and global impact of education, and as president of Xiamen University, you have made dramatic strides not only in improving higher education in China but also in building educational collaborations worldwide to advance education and understanding among all peoples.

Therefore, under the authority of the Board of Trustees of the University of Delaware, I have the pleasure and honor of conferring upon you, Chongshi Zhu, the degree of Doctor of Laws and do declare you entitled to all the rights, honors, and privileges to that degree appertaining throughout the world. In testimony thereof, I am pleased to present to you this diploma.

*A. Gilchrist Sparks III*  
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