

As a State Senator, Don Davis visited China on a trip sponsored by a Chinese organization affiliated with the Chinese Communist Party, which seeks to create relationships with foreigners to promote the views of the Chinese Communist Party.

BACKUP:

In 2013, Don Davis went on a legislative visit to China which was sponsored by the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, an organization that intends to coopt “foreigners friendly to China” who would “act as surrogates for the Party and actively promote the CCP’s views:”

- **In October 2013, it was reported that a group of North Carolina politicians were in China “for a nine-day economic development trip.”** “A group of North Carolina politicians, including two Winston-Salem legislators, state officials and business people are in China right now for a nine-day economic development trip focused on health and biotech opportunities.” (Travis Fain, “Legislators, NC contingent in China for economic development trip,” [News & Record](#), 10/21/13)
- **Don Davis was listed as a participant in the trip to China.** “Here’s a list of participants... Sen. Don Davis.” (Travis Fain, “Legislators, NC contingent in China for economic development trip,” [News & Record](#), 10/21/13)

Editor’s Note: During an address in the State Senate, Senator Tommy Tucker stated that him and Senator Joel Ford “protected Don [Davis] over there in China.”

- **Among the groups that paid for the trip was the “Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.”** “These are the groups that paid for the trip, per the center... Sponsors: Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.” (Travis Fain, “Legislators, NC contingent in China for economic development trip,” [News & Record](#), 10/21/13)
- **The Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) is “an organ of the CCP party-state” and has been described as “a united front organization.”** “Regardless of its exact chain of command, the CPAFFC is an organ of the CCP party-state and Anne-Marie Brady describes it as ‘a united front organization.’” (Toshi Yoshihara and Jack Bianchi, “Uncovering China’s Influence in Europe: How Friendship Groups Coopt European Elites,” [Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments](#), 7/1/20)
 - **“As a concept, the united front is Leninist in its origins. The concept calls for a Leninist organization to form alliances of convenience with other political parties, social groups, and individuals, to whatever extent necessary, to strengthen the overall position of the Leninist party and to sow division among its enemies.”** (Toshi Yoshihara and Jack Bianchi, “Uncovering China’s Influence in Europe: How Friendship Groups Coopt European Elites,” [Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments](#), 7/1/20)

- **The CPAFFC cultivates ties with coopted members through “mutual exchanges of visiting delegations, including all-expenses-paid trips to China.”** “The Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC, detailed below) appears to be one of the friendship groups’ sponsors. In terms of united front work, the CCP cultivates ties with these groups and their coopted members through: mutual exchanges of visiting delegations, including all-expenses-paid trips to China; access to high-level Chinese officials; material and moral support; high visibility initiatives that promote Beijing’s agenda; resources for administration of the groups; and possibly recruitment of new members to the groups.” (Toshi Yoshihara and Jack Bianchi, “Uncovering China’s Influence in Europe: How Friendship Groups Coopt European Elites,” [Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments](#), 7/1/20)
- **Chinese friendship groups “serve as vehicles for coopting foreigners friendly to China.”** “The pattern of the friendship groups’ behavior and the groups’ interactions with the Party also align with Brady’s description of the CCP’s international united front work. The groups serve as legal vehicles for coopting foreigners friendly to China.” (Toshi Yoshihara and Jack Bianchi, “Uncovering China’s Influence in Europe: How Friendship Groups Coopt European Elites,” [Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments](#), 7/1/20)
- **“The coopted individuals that lead the friendship associations, in turn, act as surrogates for the Party and actively promote the CCP’s views.”** (Toshi Yoshihara and Jack Bianchi, “Uncovering China’s Influence in Europe: How Friendship Groups Coopt European Elites,” [Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments](#), 7/1/20)

Editor’s Note: The [chair of the CPAFFC](#) as of December 2021 has spread the conspiracy theory that the [United States military](#) was responsible for bringing COVID-19 to China.

In 2014, Don Davis met with Chinese medical exchange students from Wuhan University to discuss “the role politics plays in health care:”

- **In July 2014, it was reported that Davis had “met with a group of Chinese medical exchange students from Wuhan” to “discuss the role politics plays in health care.”** “One of Pitt County’s state senators joined a group of Democrats who met with Chinese exchange students to discuss the role politics plays in health care. Sen. Don Davis, D-Greene, met with a group of Chinese medical exchange students from Wuhan University who are studying at Duke University as part of the school’s cultural immersion program.” (Reflector Staff, “Chinese students meet lawmakers,” [The Daily Reflector](#), 7/24/14)