

Alfred University supports efforts to assist Wuhan, China, amid coronavirus outbreak

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ALFRED, NY – Communities large and small across China celebrated the Lunar New Year on Saturday, Feb. 1. The festive nature of the annual event was tempered due to the coronavirus outbreak, with the city of Wuhan among the Chinese cities most profoundly impacted by the deadly illness.

At Alfred University, the campus community, led by the Confucius Institute, is doing what it can to help the people of Wuhan. Recently, the Confucius Institute at Alfred University (CIAU) launched the “AU Helps Wuhan” project to support Wuhan in its fight against coronavirus.

China University of Geosciences (CUG) in Wuhan is the partner institution with CIAU. When CUG’s hospital released an urgent call for medical supplies for its patients and more than 500 international students on the campus, CIAU responded right away. Although medical protective equipment is almost out of stock in America as well as in China, CIAU staff donated money and managed to collect 40 pounds of surgical masks and gloves from local pharmacies and have sent an initial donation of the medical supplies to the hospital of CUG last week.

At the Lunar New Year Gala held on the Alfred University campus Feb. 1, guests at the celebration signed on the “Be Strong, Wuhan” poster, and contributed \$342 toward a fund to help Wuhan. CIAU has collected more than \$1,000 for medical supplies purchases. A second donation of medical masks and protective coveralls will be sent to CUG and

Alfred University alumni in Wuhan this week.

Alfred University President Mark Zupan and Provost Beth Ann Dobie expressed their concerns and sent well wishes to CUG and to our alumni in Wuhan. Via email, Zupan said, “During this time of challenge, especially for the City of Wuhan, I wanted to let you know that we are thinking of you and hoping that the coronavirus outbreak is soon addressed.”