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**EUGENE-CHINJU SISTER CITY COMMITTEE WINS SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL'S  
INNOVATION AWARD (YOUTH AND EDUCATION)**

WASHINGTON, DC – Eugene-Chinju Sister City Committee has won Sister Cities International's 2014 Innovation Award (Youth and Education) for a city with a population between 100,001 and 500,000. The 2014 Sister Cities International Innovation Award (Youth and Education) recognizes the accomplishments of outstanding community and individual sister city programs that promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation.

As an effort to cultivate and educate young people as future leaders and to nurture their contributions to mutual understanding, world peace, and prosperity, the Eugene-Chinju Sister City Committee (EJSCC) has maintained its annual high school student exchange program with Chinju since 2002.

EJSCC's special efforts in publicizing the exchange program in 2013 produced excellent results in recruiting a larger number of outbound ambassadorial students, consequently forming not only another successful year of student exchanges, but the start of recruitment success for the coming year of 2014 and beyond. Two mutual student exchanges took place throughout 2013 and, additionally, EJSCC recruited all 2012 outbound students to participate in the 28th Oregon Asian Celebration attended by 25,000 people in 2013.

To successfully implement these exchanges, EJSCC's working group members collaborated with the Eugene City Mayor's Office, International High Schools in Eugene, Office of Admissions and the Office of International Affairs of the University of Oregon, and more.

Sister Cities International's Annual Awards are awarded in several categories including Best Overall, Innovation (Arts & Culture, Economic Development, Energy/Sustainable Development, Humanitarian Assistance, and Youth & Education), Volunteer of the Year, and Youth Leadership. Award winners will be honored at a special ceremony on Saturday, August 2, during Sister Cities International's 58th Annual Conference in San Jose, California.

The Sister Cities International 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference will bring together elected and municipal officials, engaged citizens, diplomats, and business leaders in the exciting capital of Silicon Valley to discuss, "The Power of Digital Diplomacy". Conference sessions will provide attendees with opportunities to learn about strengthening their sister city programs through informative sessions led by experts and industry leaders. For more information on the 2014 Sister Cities International Annual Conference, please visit: [www.SisterCitiesConference.org](http://www.SisterCitiesConference.org).

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**About Sister Cities International**

Founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, Sister Cities International serves as the national membership organization for over 500 individual sister cities, counties, and states across the United States with relationships in 2,000 communities in 140 countries. This sister city network unites tens of thousands of citizen diplomats and volunteers who work tirelessly to promote peace and understanding through programs and projects focusing on arts and culture, youth and education, economic and sustainable development, and humanitarian assistance.

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