

## NYU Shanghai names new admin.

April 9, 2012  
by [Julie DeVito](#)

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NYU announced last week that former Cornell University President Jeffrey Lehman has been appointed as vice chancellor of NYU Shanghai.

Since 2007, he has served as the chancellor of Peking University School of Transnational Law, where he is the founding dean.

"I'm thrilled beyond words," Lehman said. "This is an opportunity to participate in the development of a compelling new vision of excellence in higher education."

As vice chancellor, Lehman will be in charge of all academic and administrative operations. He said the position will require him to create a compelling narrative for NYU's enterprise and help gather support for NYU Shanghai.

Lehman wants to attract the best students in the world to study at NYU Shanghai, which he said will be a fun process.

"I want us to provide them with a demanding education that is sculpted from timeless values into a form suited to contemporary life, that draws on the unique resources of Shanghai and that integrates seamlessly into the overall network of NYU," Lehman said. "I want us to conduct research that contributes meaningfully to the edifice of human knowledge."

NYU Shanghai, which was announced in March 2011, is the first American university with independent legal status approved by the Chinese Ministry of Education. Its first undergraduate class will enter in Fall 2013.

He previously served as the 11th President of Cornell University from 2003 to 2005 and 13th dean of the University of Michigan Law School from 1994 to 2003.

NYU President John Sexton praised Lehman's leadership in both the United States and China.

"His willingness to serve as NYU Shanghai's leader is a tremendous validation of what we are trying to accomplish in Shanghai and throughout NYU's global network," Sexton said in the press release of Lehman's appointment.

"We have found a partner who understands the enormous academic value of a global education and who has helped us realize this vision here in Shanghai," Sexton said. "His guidance, wisdom, experience and entrepreneurial spirit has been and will continue to be indispensable to the success of NYU Shanghai."

Chris Whitman, a colleague of Lehman's at Michigan for five years, called Lehman an institution builder.

"He is also razor-sharp both in legal argument and in dealing with administrative problems," Whitman said. "He is one of the most intellectually curious people I know, which means he's an excellent listener and also eager to learn about new cultures and new perspectives."

Esther Tang, a student of Lehman's at Cornell and Peking, said he taught her how to connect words and behavior across cultural boundaries.

"As a kid fascinated by globalization, I felt he handed me a missing puzzle piece," Tang said.

Lehman's appointment will be effective Summer 2012.

Yu Lizhong of East China Normal University will be chancellor of NYU Shanghai where he will also serve as chairman of the board.