



My First Grant

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I came to The University of Akron as a tenure-track assistant professor in August 2005 from Kentucky. Dean Mark Auburn interviewed me in March that year. At the end of the interview, he gave me a few Chinese faculty names to help me make connections if I had any questions. One of them was Dr. Peter Li, who was a professor at the School of Social Work. He answered many of my questions.

Dr. Auburn also invited me to a Dim Sum group, which used to meet once a month for lunch at Li Hua Restaurant in Cleveland. With this group, I met retired University of Akron Professor, Dr. Charlotte Essner, who

played a mother role for the whole group. When I mentioned that I was in the process of preparing my first grant application, Dr. Eason instantly expressed her willingness to help. She helped me with multiple drafts. The end story of the story was a success, as in 2007 I received the first grant to add to my resume. Comparative Research on Teenager Tobacco Consumption in China and the U.S. Summer Fellowship of 2007 was funded by The University of Akron (\$8,000). How exciting and encouraging! With this grant, I built more confidence for my research and teaching.

My first grant story showed the welcoming spirit of The University of Akron. It is no secret that Akron is a place for success for people of any race, background, and origin. I love our University.