

China's 1st test-tube baby off to college

by UPI

BEIJING - China's first test-tube baby, now 19, is preparing to start college next week, Xinhua reported Thursday. Zheng Mengzhu said she planned to study at the Xijing Vocational Institute in Xi'an, capital of the northwestern Shaanxi Province. Her family in Tianshui told a local newspaper she had left for Xi'an this week. The college declined to discuss their new freshman, stating they wanted to protect her privacy. Zheng was born in the No. 3 Hospital affiliated with Beijing University of Medical Sciences in March 1988 after doctors used test-tube technology to help Zheng's mother, a rural school teacher, become pregnant at the age of 39. Her parents had been trying for nearly 20 years to conceive a child. Zheng's birth came 10 years after the world's first test-tube baby, Louise Brown, was born in Britain. Xinhua said Zheng's birth became a symbol of hope for infertile couples in China.

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