

# ENGAGING THE WORLD

2020 Global Engagement Report



UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska**





TABLE OF **CONTENTS**

4	<b>A Letter from the Provost</b>
5	<b>The University of Nebraska and Global Engagement</b>
6-11	<b>University of Nebraska at Kearney</b>
12-17	<b>University of Nebraska–Lincoln</b>
18-23	<b>University of Nebraska Medical Center</b>
24-29	<b>University of Nebraska at Omaha</b>
30-31	<b>Global Perspectives in the Curriculum Mini-Grants</b>
32	<b>The Nene Field Scholarship at UNO Carries On</b>
33	<b>NU Foundation’s Global Engagement Fund</b>
34	<b>University-wide Trends and Enrollment Patterns</b>

# THE IMPORTANCE OF GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

## A Letter from the Provost

**T**he University of Nebraska aspires to be a global leader in research, teaching and activities that help students develop the insights and skills to contribute in today's global economy. As the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated, diseases and global challenges can easily cross borders, and our students need to develop a deep understanding of how they can contribute to solving complex and critical issues facing our planet and people.

As is evident in this report, NU places a high value on developing global engagement opportunities for our students, both those who study abroad and those who remain in Nebraska. A global mindset and global-ready skills are needed in today's globalizing world, and NU faculty and students are doing significant work to promote understanding of global issues. Each University of Nebraska campus has developed extensive and significant partnerships to advance our mission.

International students play a key role in our mission. International students bring with them unique life experiences and perspectives that enrich our university and open new insights for their fellow students. They assist us in developing strong partnerships across the globe, addressing issues of global impact from a variety of perspectives and strengthening our network of alumni and friends.

I am also pleased that so many of our faculty are conducting path-breaking research on a wide range of issues that impact the world. Their teaching and community service provide hope and understanding for a world facing a multitude of transitions and challenges. Their bravery and courage inspire me.

The University of Nebraska is increasingly a global institution. Thank you for your support!



**SUSAN FRITZ, PH.D.**  
Executive Vice President and Provost,  
University of Nebraska



# THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AND GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

## Engaging with Global Challenges

The term “Global Engagement” encompasses a wide range of activities at the University of Nebraska. Two of the most obvious areas of global engagement include NU students who study or travel outside of the U.S. and international students who study abroad here in Nebraska. NU places a high priority on supporting students who travel to other countries, learn from different perspectives, study other languages and engage with global challenges. In recent years, the university has contributed thousands of dollars toward student scholarships to help students learn about global challenges first-hand.

Yet Global Engagement is broader than that. It includes faculty who do research on challenges that affect any region of the world (including Nebraska), courses where students learn about other countries or global trends, and on-campus activities that help students develop skills to interact effectively and appropriately with those who think or act differently than they do. Global Engagement is intended for all students and members of our community

It is important to develop a global mindset and global-ready skills to meet the needs of an ever-changing world. Studying another language is important, as is taking advantage of opportunities to interact with people from around the world. In many sectors of the economy, individuals work with people who speak other languages and come from many parts of the world. Global-ready skills enable our graduates to work effectively while strengthening the economy of Nebraska.

This report includes just a few stories from among the hundreds of global engagement efforts going on across the University of Nebraska. We hope these stories inspire you.



# INTRODUCTION TO UNK'S GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

by Chancellor Doug Kristensen



DOUGLAS A. KRISTENSEN, J.D.  
Chancellor  
University of Nebraska at Kearney

The education and development of college students is driven by the need to help them understand the world around them, and to help them figure out how their interests and strengths will let them find interesting and rewarding lives that contribute to society. This alone requires that students should be exposed to the cultures of the world.

At the University of Nebraska at Kearney, we are proud that more than 7% of our students hail from 50 countries around the world. They bring perspectives and interests that enrich our domestic students. Sometimes this fosters a new understanding, and sometimes it affirms a student's own values. UNK's international students produce several country-specific festivals that include cultural performances and native food, and they come together each year to organize a massive event that draws 2,000 guests from campus and the Kearney community to celebrate the peoples of the world.

UNK students travel around the globe to immerse themselves in a variety of cultures. In a typical year, approximately 11% of our students engage in purposeful learning programs in other countries. Our faculty travel for their personal scholarship, to internationalize our curriculum through grant awards and to support students.

These and other programs provide our students a variety of ways to broaden their knowledge, open doors of opportunity, and empower them as they move from UNK into their careers. A great indicator of this is the fact that students who have studied abroad are twice as likely to obtain a professional position within 6 months of graduation. Why? Because employers know that a student exposed to new and different situations can more successfully handle challenge and change. More clearly than ever, current events are illustrating how important creativity and adaptability can be.

As an extension of UNK's "Be Blue. Be Gold. Be Bold!" brand, our Office of International Education has adopted the slogan "Be Global." This conveys the notion that the more you know, the more you can do. A true statement indeed.



Douglas Kristensen



## LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE: UNK STUDENTS PRESENT RESEARCH IN TOKYO

**A** group of University of Nebraska at Kearney students recently traveled halfway across the world to present their research and immerse themselves in Japanese culture.

Nicole Kent of Benkelman, Haley Pierce of West Point, Adrian Gomez-Ramos of Lexington, Mic Rohde of Kimball and Katie Schultis of Diller recently joined UNK political science faculty Satoshi Machida and Chuck Rowling on a six-day trip to Tokyo, where they attended the Asian Undergraduate Research Symposium, explored the historic city and connected with UNK alumni.

It was a “life-changing” experience for Rohde, a senior studying wildlife biology with a political science minor. “The opportunities provided by UNK are truly incredible,” he said. “Presenting research to an international audience required us to think about our projects in new ways. Luckily, UNK prepared us for this type of situation, and our group stood out among the presenters.”

Pierce, a senior studying journalism with a political science minor, believes the opportunity to present at the Tokyo event will benefit her when she enrolls in graduate school.

▶▶▶ **"While my research experience at UNK has already prepared me in ways many undergraduate students can only dream of, presenting at an international conference further enhances that preparedness."**

*Haley Pierce, journalism major and political science minor at UNK*

More than 120 undergraduate students from 12 countries and regions participated in the Asian Undergraduate Research Symposium, an interdisciplinary conference open to scholars from any field. Although they were 6,000 miles from campus, the UNK students and faculty didn't have any trouble finding some fellow Lopers in Japan. They were joined for dinner by seven alumni who attended UNK as international students.

# UNK FACULTY CONDUCT RESEARCH IN ZAMBIA, DEVELOP CURRICULUM ABOUT AFRICA

**W**hen the University of Nebraska announced its Africa Teaching Initiative in 2018, Michelle Fleig-Palmer, associate professor in UNK's Department of Management and director of the health care management program, thought of Dr. Marjie Heier, a Schuyler native who has served as medical director at the Chifundo Rural Health Center in Zambia since 2013.

Heier has visited UNK each of the past six years to guest lecture in classrooms and participate in community forums. She's also been a featured presenter at the James E. Smith Midwest Conference on World Affairs hosted by UNK.

Fleig-Palmer knew she had the perfect opportunity to expand the partnership with Dr. Heier through the Africa Teaching Initiative. The plan this time around wasn't to bring Heier back to UNK. Fleig-Palmer and faculty colleagues in UNK's Department of Family Studies, Sharon Obasi and Toni Hill, wanted to take a group to Zambia, where they could see the health care system firsthand and interact with residents during their day-to-day lives.

After receiving an Africa Teaching grant, these three UNK faculty arranged to travel to Zambia with two UNK students during Summer 2019, where they assisted at the Chifundo Rural Health Center and outreach clinics and conducted research to enhance their course curriculum. They used the trip to study topics such as maternal and child health, elder care, family sustainability and health care communication and administration.

▶▶▶ **"My hope is that we can build on those relationships and create opportunities not just at the clinic, but at other places in Zambia, as well."**

Michelle Fleig-Palmer, associate professor of management at UNK

They hope this experience inspires more students and educators to travel the world while using their knowledge to help others.





## UNK, FAMILY HELP LEXINGTON'S CECILIA PERALES-GARCIA LAND DREAM JOB

Cecilia Perales-Garcia was just 3 years old when her father moved his family from Durango, Mexico, to Lexington, Nebraska. He wanted a better life for his family, a job that would support them financially and an opportunity for his kids that wasn't available in his home country.

Cecilia's mother, Maria, wanted her daughter close to home, at a school where she could build strong relationships with professors and connect with people who saw her potential.

"UNK provided that for me," Perales-Garcia said. "I feel like I made the best decision in that sense." She also stated that, "I've always known I wanted to be a teacher. I knew I wouldn't be happy doing anything else."

The Lexington High School graduate was accepted at UNK, where she formed an immediate bond with Michelle Warren, an assistant Spanish professor and chair of UNK's Spanish education master's program.

"She's been my mentor, friend, professor," Perales-Garcia said. "She sees something in me that I don't necessarily see in myself. She's always pushing me to do things outside my comfort zone." After Perales-Garcia earned a bachelor's degree in Spanish education with an English as a second language endorsement, Warren encouraged her to pursue a master's degree and apply for a graduate teaching assistant position in the Department of Modern Languages.

"Her passion for helping other first-generation students like herself excel in higher education, as well as introducing Spanish language and Latino culture to non-heritage learners, speaks volumes to her commitment to her chosen field," Warren stated.

The Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) agrees. The association, which includes more than 150 colleges and universities in 14 states, honored Perales-Garcia with its Excellence in Teaching Award in March 2019.

Perales-Garcia finished her master's degree in 2019 and is now teaching Spanish in Lexington.

# UNK STUDENTS STUDY ABROAD IN CUBA

**A**lthough Cuba sits just 90 miles south of U.S. soil, the Caribbean's largest island remains shrouded in mystery. Most of what Americans know about this communist nation comes from movies or media reports.

From an educational standpoint, there's perhaps no better country to study.

"Our students can just jump on a plane and go to Mexico, Guatemala or pretty much anywhere else in the world, but they can't do that with Cuba," said William Aviles, a political science professor and department chair at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Aviles recently led a weeklong trip that took a group of 16 UNK students, faculty and community members to Cuba. What they discovered is a place much different than they imagined.

The complex relationship between the U.S. and Cuba made the trip particularly interesting for the UNK students, all political science majors who are also learning or studying Spanish.

Prior to their visit, the students participated in a three-week online class taught by Aviles that explored Cuban history and politics, including the 1959 socialist revolution led by Fidel Castro that overthrew the U.S.-backed government in Havana and created the current one-party, communist system formerly allied with the Soviet Union. U.S. sanctions intended to topple Castro and his regime impacted Cuba's state-controlled economy over the next 50-plus years.

**▶▶▶ "It's important that students have an understanding of the relationship between Cuba and the United States and the consequences of this embargo," said Aviles, a Miami native with a special interest in Latin American politics.**

*William Aviles, political science professor and department chair at UNK*





## UNK'S ENGAGEMENT IN THE DELFIN PROGRAM

The University of Nebraska at Kearney is partnering with academic institutions from four Latin American countries to promote undergraduate research, expand students' global perspectives and create opportunities for collaboration among faculty.

Last year, UNK joined the Inter-Institutional Program for Strengthening of Research and Graduates Studies in the Pacific, better known as DELFIN. Started in 1995, the program includes more than 200 academic institutions and research centers in Mexico, Colombia, Costa Rica and Peru. UNK is the first member institution from the United States.

“When we first learned about this program, we knew it fit UNK so well,” said Tim Burkink, assistant vice chancellor for international affairs.

UNK offers countless opportunities for undergraduate students to conduct faculty-mentored research, and the campus and Kearney community provide a welcoming, safe environment for international students. More than 350 international students from 50-plus countries are currently studying at UNK, which is home to an English Language Institute that allows these students to learn more about the English language and American culture.

These attributes align perfectly with DELFIN's goals.

The program's main objective is to connect undergraduate students with faculty researchers from other member institutions, either abroad or within the same country. These students spend seven weeks at the host institution while working on a faculty-led summer research project.

UNK hosted its first two students during Summer 2019. They worked alongside UNK chemistry professor Hector Palencia on a project addressing antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

One of the students, Omar Lozano Ramos, a senior studying chemical and pharmaceutical biology at the University of Colima, called it a “life-changing experience.”

“I learned a lot from Dr. Palencia, from chemistry techniques to life lessons, and made very valuable friendships,” he said.

# INTRODUCTION TO UNL'S GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

by Chancellor Ronnie Green



RONNIE D. GREEN, PH.D.  
Chancellor  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Throughout its history, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has had a strong tradition of global engagement. From partnership development in the 1950s and 60s in places like Turkey and Colombia, to conducting groundbreaking research with a wide range of international partners today, UNL is a place that values bringing the best and brightest together from around the world.

In 2019, we were proud that more than 3,000 international students and scholars from more than 130 countries around the world called UNL their home, adding a wealth of diversity and perspective to our campus.

In celebration of our 150th anniversary in 2019, I charged UNL to be a transformative, world-leading land-grant university. As we look forward to the future, global engagement will remain an important priority.

To that end, we began the process of creating a new internationalization strategy this year as part of the American Council on Education's Internationalization Lab. A campus-wide

committee is crafting a new vision for future global engagement at UNL, building on our N2025 Strategic Plan and its aims of solving global grand challenges, expanding global partnerships, prioritizing diversity and preparing students to thrive in our interconnected world.

The following stories are only a small snapshot of our exciting international initiatives that continue to have a broad impact on our state, country, and world, and provide a glimpse of our continued success as a world-leading globally engaged institution.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronnie D. Green". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



## UNL'S FRIENDS OF NEBRASKA ALUMNI NETWORK JOINS FORCES WITH GOVERNOR'S TRADE MISSIONS AROUND THE WORLD

**T**he University of Nebraska–Lincoln network extends across the world, with more than 200,000 living alumni in the Husker family. During fall 2019, UNL hosted “Friends of Nebraska and Alumni” receptions in Japan, Vietnam and Germany that supported state economic and connected more than 175 Nebraska alumni and state supporters.

In September, UNL senior administrators, faculty and staff joined Governor Ricketts’ delegation to Vietnam and Japan. In Vietnam, government officials expressed an interest to further collaborate with the State of Nebraska in agricultural trade, technological and capital investment, and higher education exchanges. Nebraska native and U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam Daniel Kritenbrink also attended several meetings.

On September 6, UNL’s Associate Vice Chancellor for Global Affairs Josh Davis hosted the first “Friends of Nebraska and Alumni” reception in Hanoi with alumni from across Nebraska, including former UNL lecturers and future Fulbright scholars. “Friends of Nebraska” is a new joint collaboration between UNL and the Nebraska Department of Economic Development to reconnect with alumni, business partners and other supporters abroad to build a mutually beneficial network around the world.

“We really appreciate the University being a part of this [trade mission],” Governor Ricketts said during the reception. “It really is important that we make these connections because you are great ambassadors... to tell the Nebraska story.”

During the Japanese leg of the trade mission, UNL representatives attended the Midwest U.S.-Japan Association Conference in Tokyo, where Governor Ricketts noted the university has played an important role in expanding cultural exchange. On September 9, UNL celebrated those relationships with more than 90 alumni, friends and trade delegation members. Some guests in attendance were proud to be exchange students at UNL over 30 years ago.

Chancellor Ronnie Green also joined the final 2019 trade mission to Germany in November, where he hosted the “Friends of Nebraska and Alumni” with Governor Ricketts in Berlin.

As the University works to achieve the N150 charge to become a world-leading, 21st century land-grant university, UNL is excited to continue supporting global engagement efforts with alumni, businesses and research partners.

# UNL RECOGNIZED FOR COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT AND SUCCESS

**S**tudying abroad can be a life-changing and powerful professional development experience for students. The UNL Education Abroad Office works hard to ensure its students have financial access to such opportunities by supporting applications to prestigious funding opportunities like the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship.

▶▶▶ **"It's really important that you're not stuck to one particular area. [Studying abroad] just gives you a chance to experience the world."**

*Luis Martinez, Spring 2019 Gilman Scholar and Nebraska art alum*

The Gilman Scholarship Program supports underrepresented undergraduates who might not otherwise participate due to financial constraints, encouraging them to study and intern in a diverse array of countries and languages. In March 2019, the U.S. Department of State recognized the University of Nebraska–Lincoln as a Greatest Growth Institution for Gilman Scholarship recipients in two categories: large institutions and first-generation college students. The announcement followed a record-setting award year in 2017-18, with 34 Gilman Scholarships awarded to UNL.

"Receiving the Gilman Scholarship showed me that I should not count myself out of opportunities, and to believe in myself," Brigid Welchans said. Welchans, a senior environmental studies major, studied abroad at James Cook University in Townsville, Australia, during the fall 2019 semester. "The Gilman Scholarship was inherent to my studying abroad, and I am forever grateful for the experience I had at JCU."

UNL's Education Abroad Office, working in partnership with the Office of Fellowships, offers a wide range of resources for the Gilman Scholarship for interested students, including information sessions, writing workshops and outreach to approved faculty-led programs. The Gilman Scholarship has long been a key part of UNL's strategy to promote education abroad to students with financial need, in addition to recently added institutional scholarships and payment deferment plans. As of December 2019, more than 180 UNL students had received a Gilman Scholarship to study in 42 countries.





## UNL AND PAKISTAN EDUCATOR EXCHANGE COMES FULL CIRCLE

In October and November 2019, UNL's Programs in English as a Second Language (PIESL) hosted 25 educators from Pakistan through the U.S. Department of State's English Works! Program.

After PIESL lecturer Crystal Bock Thiessen conducted a one-week training session in Pakistan for 50 local English language instructors, the Regional English Language Office at the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad saw an opportunity to expand the training in Nebraska by utilizing the expertise of PIESL and the UNL Teaching, Learning & Teacher Education Department.

"Engaging in programs like this demonstrates UNL's capacity to collaborate effectively with the U.S. Department of State around the world," PIESL director Chris Dunsmore said. "Hosting these amazing educators on our campus was mutually beneficial in that both sides came away with a deeper understanding and appreciation of each other's cultures and the challenges we face in educating our students."

During their two weeks at UNL, educators had opportunities to study and share with the Nebraska community. On campus, the Pakistani group attended seminars on integrating social media into their language classes, teaching literature through slam poetry, and building entrepreneurial capacity through a workshop focused on strengths-based leadership with UNL's Clifton Strengths Institute. In addition, the group also met with several local businesses and nonprofit organizations, experienced local Nebraska culture, and hosted a community reception.

▶▶▶ **"This was one of the best [opportunities] of my life. I am a dedicated teacher and this experience will become the experience of my students."**

Pakistani educator Memoona Hakeem

UNL is proud to count the educators as friends of Nebraska and looks forward to welcoming them back to campus in the future. Through customized programs like this one, PIESL continues serving its mission of improving English language proficiency with a world-class innovative curriculum.

# LEADING THE WAY TO CONNECT INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC STUDENTS

As UNL's International Student and Scholar Office (ISSO) continued to expand its mission to provide expert immigration services and educational programming, two new International Student Success Navigator (ISSN) positions were created in 2019. Now a team of four, the ISSN's have re-invigorated and increased support for international students by developing cultural, social and academic integration through events and programming.

During fall 2019, ISSO engaged over 1,000 international students and scholars through off-campus trips and on-campus events. ISSO also collaborated with other campus units to create programming for all Huskers during International Education Week, including the first Global Huskers Festival.

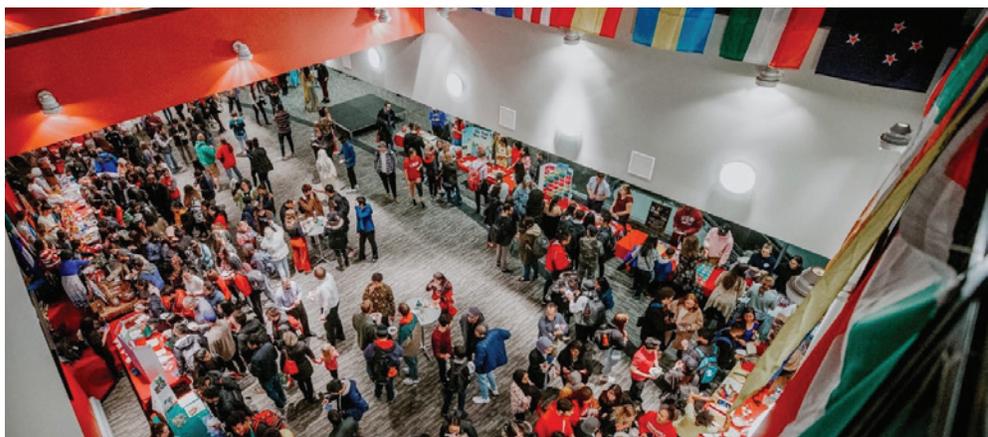
In 2019, ISSO hired 15 domestic and international students as Global Peer Mentors to provide peer-to-peer connections with new international students. Alden Ching, an international student from Malaysia and a Global Peer Mentor, reflected on his experience engaging with his mentees.

"My favorite part about being a Global Peer Mentor is how I am actually able to play a small role in helping incoming international students enjoy their time here at UNL," Ching said.

As a domestic student and a Global Peer Mentor, Vanessa Whitmore has also seen the benefits of the increased programming.

"The events ISSO hosts have impacted the UNL community by giving a chance to learn directly from students about their cultures, find common values, and learn about the diversity represented at UNL. This is important to the formation of students in valuing the unique viewpoints other cultures can give," Whitmore said.

UNL's ISSO team is excited to continue offering cultural and professional development activities that support campus diversity and inclusion. As Director Karen Cagley said, "The hallmark of our work is supporting UNL's international scholars and students, and we look forward to working with our partners in the future to enrich the experience of all at UNL."





## UNL'S YEUTTER INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FINANCE HOSTS PUBLIC CONFERENCE

Students from UNL had the chance to lead a discussion of timely and serious topics concerning international trade during a one-day conference hosted October 10, 2019, by the Clayton Yeutter Institute of International Trade and Finance that convened faculty, students, government officials, industry leaders and national experts.

During a lunchtime panel, three university students interviewed Darci Vetter, Vice Chair for Agriculture, Food and Trade at Edelman and former U.S. Chief Agricultural Negotiator. Vetter emphasized that the future of the agricultural sectors in the U.S. and China are closely tied together, and that trade is intertwined with other areas of the overall bilateral relationship.

Given the current state of global trade relations, law student Nichole Sklare asked Vetter her thoughts on what bilateral and multilateral agreements the U.S. should be pursuing. Vetter narrowed in on southeast Asia, India and Africa, citing population growth and an increase in purchasing power in those regions.

“That’s where the economic dynamism is going to be and that’s where our consumers are going to be from an ag perspective so I would really like to see us have an offensive trade agenda in establishing those relationships,” Vetter said.

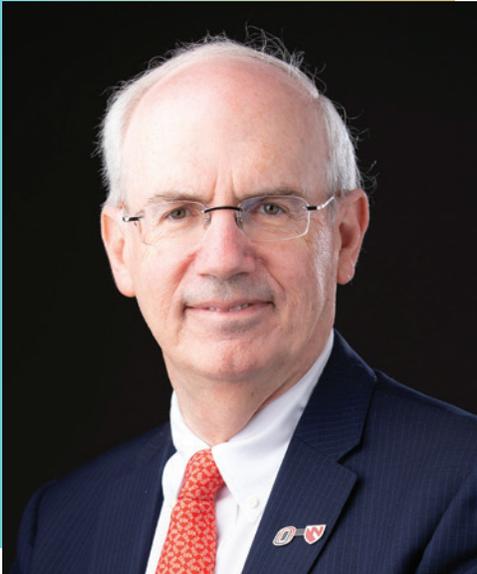
Many of the themes discussed during the conference are also covered on Trade Matters, a podcast from the Yeutter Institute. The biweekly podcast aims to make trade relatable, considering new developments, longstanding trends and the potential impacts of both.

The vision of University of Nebraska alumnus and renowned trade expert Clayton Yeutter (pictured above), the Yeutter Institute connects academic disciplines related to law, business and agriculture to prepare students for leadership roles in international trade and finance, support interdisciplinary research and increase public understanding of these issues.

Pictured at top of page, on left: University of Nebraska–Lincoln students Sarah Barrett (Law), Nichole Sklare (Law) and Justin Myers (Economics) interview Darci Vetter, Vice Chair for Agriculture, Food and Trade at Edelman and former U.S. Chief Agricultural Negotiator during the public conference in Lincoln.

# INTRODUCTION TO UNMC'S GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

by Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D.



JEFFREY P. GOLD, M.D.  
Chancellor  
University of Nebraska Medical Center

**H**ere at UNMC, global engagement is our present and our future. We are growing our respected position of leadership through world-class clinical, research and service initiatives that will impact our interconnected world in many ways:

- We generate new knowledge to help solve some of the world's most pressing problems and to insure our relevancy in a world of rapidly expanding information and data. Our present position of leadership in the fight against COVID-19 and previously, our response to the Ebola crises in 2014, are indicative of our efforts and successes. Such efforts include our leadership in the fight against pediatric infectious disease in Africa and the programs of the Global Center for Health Security.
  - We educate leaders to assume positions of responsibility across the globe, as well as in Nebraska and the region through the development of strategic partnerships with international academic centers of excellence.
  - We provide rigorous educational opportunities that emphasize cultural sensitivity and individual responsibility.
- We provide first-class services in support of international students, scholars, and visitors by our visa and immigration and international visitor teams.
  - We continue to explore opportunities for commercial partnerships addressing clinical and management needs overseas through our international business development program.

As we move forward in this new decade, I am confident that our global engagement will increase in size, diversity, and impact. Our potential has never been greater, and we will realize it!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey P. Gold".





## UNMC'S INTERNATIONAL PEDIATRIC INFECTIOUS DISEASE RESEARCH PROGRAM IN NIGERIA

**U**NMC's International Pediatric Infectious Disease Research Program, led by Dr. Stephen Obaro (pictured above), aims to improve health outcomes in under-resourced settings through innovative research and education. All research and training activities in West Africa are facilitated by UNMC's primary affiliate, the International Foundation Against Infectious Disease in Nigeria (IFAIN).

IFAIN was co-founded in 2012 by Dr. Dele Davies, Senior Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs and Professor, Department of Pediatrics ID (UNMC) and Dr. Stephen Obaro, Professor of Pediatric ID and Director of International Pediatric ID Research (UNMC). Currently, IFAIN has twenty-five contracted staff and oversees four active microbiology diagnostic laboratories in Abuja, Sokoto, Kano and Gwagwalada.

From 2012-2018, UNMC and IFAIN collaborated with hospitals in North-Central Nigeria to conduct the *Community-Acquired Pneumonia and Invasive Bacterial Diseases in Young Nigerian Children (CAPIBD)* funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. UNMC and IFAIN established baseline serotype distribution of invasive pneumococcal disease, described the largest health care facility based etiology of serious bacterial infections in children and trained several medical officers and laboratory scientists in aspects of diagnostic microbiology.

UNMC and IFAIN also managed the NIH funded *Global Genomic and Proteomic Profiling of African Children with Typhoid Fever* study in Abuja and Kano from 2012-2016 and from 2017-2018, collaborated with hospitals in Central Nigeria to conduct the *Vertically Transmissible Infections and Neonatal Outcomes in Nigeria* study aimed to investigate the epidemiology of infections that impact neonatal outcomes.

These ongoing projects continue to provide support for local laboratories and training in bacteriology for medical laboratory scientists in the West Africa region.

# UNMC ENGAGEMENTS IN RWANDA

**U**NMC has an MOU with the University of Rwanda (UR), actively maintained by Dr. Stephen Obaro, his research team and other Department of Pediatrics faculty.

Pediatrics engages on several research projects focused on improved diagnostics and capacity building through microbiology diagnostics at UR and the University Teaching Hospital (CHUK), in collaboration with IFAIN, funded by the Hellman Foundation, and supported by the Department of Pediatrics. Other faculty are working on projects with the Rwanda Military Hospital focused on comparing on-line education and in-person training for skills in low resource settings.

The Department of Anesthesia has made surgical trips to the Gitwe Hospital in Gitwe, Rwanda. Educational medical student trips include exposure to limited resource settings over a 3-week period. Research has included the Bekele Afessa Scan-Teach-Treat approach to improve care of patients with acute infection.

In January, senior leadership from UNMC visited Rwanda, on invitation from the University of Global Health Equity (UGHE), as one of their global collaborators. Drs. Dele Davies, Jane Meza, Kelly Carvezagie, John Lowe, Joselyn Herstein and Vicky Nakibuuka-Muli visited UGHE on invitation by the Dean of Health Sciences Dr. Abebe Bekele to engage both parties on collaboration that engages students and faculty in shared learning and research.

While in Rwanda, the team also visited the Research Institute for Conservation Agriculture (RICA), which works in close partnership with UNL. Meeting with UR leadership, several deans and students centered on our continued collaborations with a Onehealth approach.

In addition, UNMC, UNL and UNO are collaborating on a grant application for the 2020 NU seed grant focused on stunting in Rwanda.





## UNMC CONTINUES TO BRING FAMILY MEDICINE CONCEPT TO CHINA

**U**NMC achieved another milestone in its ongoing efforts to bring family medicine to China as a delegation of UNMC officials participated in the 10th Shanghai Sino-U.S. Family Medicine Forum on Oct. 18-19, 2019, in Shanghai.

The forum brought together family medicine and primary care physicians in China with several faculty members from the UNMC Department of Family Medicine and the College of Medicine. Several faculty from McGill University in Montreal also participated.

▶▶▶ **"The Chinese physicians have made a ton of progress. They know what we're talking about. In 2008, when the family medicine team first went to China, the Chinese had no concept of what we were talking about."**

*Jeff Harrison, M.D., professor and chair of family medicine*

UNMC College of Medicine Dean Bradley Britigan, M.D., was one of the speakers at the opening ceremony. He discussed how UNMC is committed to training the physicians of tomorrow.

Harold M. Maurer, M.D., UNMC's chancellor emeritus, was a special guest at the events in China. Dr. Maurer, who served as chancellor from 1999 to 2014, was instrumental in UNMC becoming active with several Chinese universities.

Zenghan (Hannah) Tong, Ph.D., associate director of UNMC's Asia Pacific Rim Development Program (APRDP), also played a key role in coordinating activities for the UNMC delegation in China.

Dr. Harrison, who has been to China 14 times over the past 11 years, said development of faculty at Tongji University School of Medicine will be the future focus of UNMC's family medicine program.



# UNMC'S MEDICAL SPANISH PROGRAM THRIVES IN XALAPA, MEXICO

**F**ive ambitious first-year medical students, seeking a boost to their Spanish language knowledge, allotted four of their summer vacation weeks to jumpstart their Spanish communication skills.

From June 9 through July 6, 2019, Ziomara Jurado, Ashtyn Nelson, Erin Oeltjen, McKenzie Rowe, and Johnathan Sayaloune immersed themselves in UNMC's well-known Medical Spanish/Global Health course, offered in Xalapa, Mexico, for the first time in the 19-year history of the course. For the first three weeks of the course, the five students studied Spanish with an individual instructor for six hours per day, five days per week.

The instruction was organized by the Centro de Linguistics of Anahuac University in Xalapa. Based on pre-arrival testing, the Spanish skill level of each student was determined and a personalized lesson plan developed. Spanish grammar and vocabulary comprised the foundation of the course. Medical terminology and topics, along with Mexican culture topics, enhanced the basic course. Also included were six one-hour lectures in English on medical/health topics relevant to the Mexican population. During the final week, the UNMC students shadowed local physicians at a government health center.

Outside of the classroom, the immersion experience continued. The students lived with a Mexican family; each family had a son or daughter studying at Anahuac University. Two weekend field trips to Mexican cultural and historical sites rounded-out the course.

The post-course essays of the students reflect their deep satisfaction and sense of accomplishment.

▶▶▶ **"Not only did I come back with a MUCH broader knowledge of the Spanish language, but also irreplaceable memories, connections/friendships that will last a lifetime...Being able to interact on such a personal level with so many people and truly learn about each other's cultures was extremely valuable to me."**

Ashtyn Nelson, UNMC College of Medicine student





## UNMC NAMED A FULBRIGHT U.S. SCHOLAR PROGRAM TOP PRODUCING INSTITUTION

**U**NMC was named a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program Top Producing Institution for the 2019-2020 academic year by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

"We are honored and humbled to be recognized as a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program Top Producing Institution for the 2019-2020 academic year," said Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D. "This recognition is indicative of the importance the university places on collaboration, understanding other cultures and welcoming people from around the world."

For more than 20 years, UNMC has participated in the Fulbright program, hosting fellows from countries across the world. UNMC currently has 12 enrolled Fulbright students from Algeria, Angola, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Lebanon, Myanmar, Niger, Pakistan, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

Fulbright Scholar Program principal investigator Wael ElRayes, M.B.B.Ch., Ph.D. (pictured above), explains that recognition as a top producer for this elite program enhances the global reputation of UNMC and increases the interest of students and scholars to study at and collaborate with UNMC.

**▶▶▶ "UNMC's mission is global and we strive to expand our multicultural campus. Expanding our Fulbright program perfectly aligns our global mission with that of Fulbright and helps our institution expand its global footprint to build cultural bridges and establish permanent scientific collaborations."**

*Wael ElRayes, M.B.B.Ch., Ph.D., Fulbright Scholar Program principal investigator*

Dr. ElRayes also serves as the UNMC Fulbright Scholar Liaison and the president of the board of the Nebraska Fulbright Chapter founded in 2019. His co-principal investigator for the Fulbright Scholar Program is Nizar Wehbi, M.D.

# INTRODUCTION TO UNO'S GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

by Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D.



JEFFREY P. GOLD, M.D.  
Chancellor  
University of Nebraska at Omaha

**O**ur global footprint is increasingly important as we continue to maintain a position of academic leadership offering students the opportunity to both understand and function in a rich and diverse world where inter connectedness and interdependency are the norm. We are committed to providing students, faculty and staff opportunities to connect with the world in ways that will help them become more informed and engaged citizens.

Our goals and objectives for global engagement at the University of Nebraska at Omaha are to:

- Offer all UNO students, domestic and international, the opportunity to receive a high-quality education in all of our academic programs and colleges.
- Expand our global engagement through the development of strategic partnerships offering faculty and students opportunities for personal and professional growth through the development of collaborative research and exchange programs. These include the very successful 40-year partnership with Shizuoka University in Japan, the highly regarded work of the Center for Afghanistan Studies and our popular education abroad programs.
- Provide a welcoming and supportive environment for international students and scholars by providing such services. These include on-going student support and counseling services, English language training through the ILUNO and IPD programs and engagement with the broader Omaha community through a range of community engagement opportunities.

Our UNO family is committed to a future in which our students, faculty and staff think and act as responsible partners in a broader international community. Through our leadership in diverse global engagement initiatives, we will make this future a reality.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey P. Gold".





## UNO AND SHIZUOKA UNIVERSITY CELEBRATE THEIR 40TH ANNIVERSARY

**T**he University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) and Shizuoka University (SU) in Japan share the oldest, most active international partnership on UNO's campus. For forty years, UNO and SU have exchanged nearly 2,000 international participants (students, faculty and administrators). These exchange students, the campus community, the city, local and state businesses, and community members as host families have all benefited from this enduring partnership.

The provision of scholarships on both campuses, a 40-year-old Summer Tour for Japanese students to visit UNO for three weeks, and many faculty and administrative exchanges have all contributed to partnership success.

The Shizuoka Summer Tour, started in 1979, is an innovative program that allows students from SU to learn conversational English, getting to know the UNO campus and tour Omaha landmarks while spending time with local host families. This educational and cultural tour takes them to the Archway in Kearney, Fort Cody Trading Post in North Platte, Lake McConaughy, Chimney Rock National Historic Site, Scotts Bluff National Monument, Fort Robinson State Park, Niobrara State Park, Mount Rushmore and the Badlands. What makes our program unique is that the university linkage is also tied to a well-publicized sister city relationship.

**▶▶ An international program of this depth and longevity requires tremendous dedication, attention to detail, teamwork and cross-cultural collaboration.**

To be stewards of place and assure continuity of this program for future participants, it is imperative to share the positive outcomes and experiences with others on our campuses.

# IPD PARTNERS WITH UNMC TO OFFER MEDICAL ENGLISH AND TEACHER TRAINING TO CHINESE EDUCATORS

UNO's International Professional Development (IPD) program, an intensive English program serving professionals' needs in Omaha and around the world, has partnered with the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) as they have expanded their international outreach through the Asia Pacific Rim Development Program (APRDP). For each of the last five years, UNMC has brought in 10-16 medical faculty and eight English language faculty from Hainan Medical University (HMU) to observe American educational practices and expand their professional networks.

Each Fall and Spring, HMU sends up to eight medical faculty for three months to observe UNMC's American instructional style and to discuss best practices in training future medical practitioners. IPD's Medical English program has focused on strengthening the doctors' fluency and cultural communication, highlighting the differences in health care systems and patient care practices in China and the U.S., and exploring doctor-patient communication in terms of slang and empathy expectations.

Each Summer, UNO IPD staff spend a month with the HMU English faculty exploring more interactive classroom practices and considering how to face the challenges of China's increasingly diverse classrooms.

UNO and UNMC hope to strengthen this partnership in academics and special programs as UNMC expands its international connections to hospitals and medical research institutions around the world and invites scholars and clinical practitioners to shadow the hospital and academic faculty.





## THE CENTER FOR AFGHANISTAN STUDIES AND ITS GLOBAL ENGAGEMENTS

**T**he Center for Afghanistan Studies (CAS) is currently implementing State Department-funded projects, including two in Pakistan: UNO-Pakistani Universities Linkages Program and Pakistan Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA). CAS also implemented a project titled Partnership 2020 in India to facilitate partnerships between U.S. and Indian universities.

In December 2019, CAS completed a two-year project with American University of Afghanistan (AUAF). It recently secured another State Department grant administered by American Councils for International Education aimed at training English language teachers from Kazakhstan and establishing partnership with Ualikhanov Kokshetau State University (KSU). CAS Director Sher Jan Ahmadzai visited Uzbekistan in July 2019 to follow up on MOUs signed between UNO and the University of World Economy and Diplomacy and Tashkent State University of Economy.

CAS has also assisted with a desktop study of the “Afghanistan Conflict Assessment” for USAID and worked with Chattam House –The Royal Institute of International Affairs on “Climate Fragility Risk Factsheet on Afghanistan.” The Factsheet was submitted to the UN Security Council to help the Council understand “the risk that climate represents for achieving sustaining peace in [Afghanistan].”

Each spring, CAS hosts Central Asia-South Asia Celebration Week and invites dignitaries to attend. The ambassadors of Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan came in 2017, 2018, and 2019, respectively. CASA Week also includes a series of lectures and presentations on various topics, cultural activities and photo exhibitions.

CAS members provide commentary and analysis to local and international media such as BBC, CNN, OWH, VOA and Afghan Televisions. A CAS staff member recently published an Economic Analysis of Afghanistan in an Afghan newspaper, focusing on the prospects of the Afghan economy after the withdrawal of International donors, including U.S. forces.

# UNO ALUM ACCEPTED TO ERASMUS MUNDUS JOINT MASTER DEGREE PROGRAM

**A**mber Johnson, a 2019 UNO graduate with a bachelor's degree in international studies and a minor in political science, has been accepted with full scholarship to the European Master in Tourism Management (EMTM) graduate program. The EMTM program is part of the European Commission's Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree catalog, and will include a semester each in Denmark, Slovenia and Spain, with a thesis semester at a chosen partner university.

Johnson first studied abroad in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in 2016 at the University of Ljubljana, where she was awarded the national Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship and the UNO Mal and Millie Hansen Award to alleviate financial expenses. This immediately set her heart on fire for travel and cultural immersion, pointing her toward cultivating a career abroad.

In the summer of 2017, Amber served as a cultural ambassador with the Taiwan U.S. Alliance (TUSA) Global Ambassador Program, intensively studying Mandarin Chinese and Taiwanese culture in Tainan, Taiwan. In the fall of 2017, she studied at the University of Tartu in Estonia, while a recipient of the UNO INST Outstanding Senior Nancy Keegan Miller Memorial Scholarship. Eager to follow her passion for Mandarin Chinese, Amber studied for one year in an intensive, prestigious Mandarin Chinese language program in the city of Qingdao, China, on a full-ride scholarship.

Amber hopes to address issues of sustainable tourism management as she studies with her new graduate program. She encourages UNO students to look out for different opportunities, apply for as many scholarships and programs that fit their interest, and to maintain hope and optimism for the future.





## EXECUTIVE MBA INTERNATIONAL PROJECT ENGAGES THE WORLD

**A** unique feature of UNO's Executive MBA (EMBA) program is the incorporation of an international business consulting project, where students integrate business theory and practice taught in the classroom with real-world business objectives. This project provides a unique experience and is a highlight of the EMBA program. The International Business Consulting Project not only serves as a global learning experience for students, but also supports local business and economy, and strengthens UNO's community ties.

Since 1989, EMBA students have conducted 112 projects for more than 78 clients. Their research has taken them to 42 different countries, and the number grows higher every year. While the majority of projects are market-entry focused, some include market expansion; site selection; and supply chain, manufacturing and logistic evaluation.

Clients have ranged from Fortune 500 companies to local small businesses, from for-profits to nonprofits. The EMBA program has also connected qualifying clients with the Nebraska Department of Economic Development and the SBA to provide some funding for these projects.

Projects also come from EMBA alumni. This past year was no different. Gabe Romero, a 2011 EMBA graduate, founded Cordova Solutions and, after experiencing the international project as a student, was eager to become a client. The needs of Cordova Solutions took a 2019 student team to Costa Rica.

▶▶▶ **"The in-person meetings allowed us to better understand the culture of the potential suppliers, very difficult, if not impossible, to do remotely. The ability to couple our research with in-country validation is an incredibly valuable aspect of the EMBA."**

George Wehbe, student



## GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES IN THE CURRICULUM MINI-GRANTS

Since 2016, the University of Nebraska system has held annual competitions for mini-grants to assist faculty in designing new courses or revise existing courses to increase the amount of global content. The charts below and on the following page list the faculty and courses that have been funded through this program.

### GRANTS IN 2016-2017

CAMPUS	FACULTY	COLLEGE	COURSE
UNK	Satoshi Machida	Arts and Sciences	The Psychology of Humanitarian Crises and Global Society
UNL	Gary Kebbel	Journalism	Global News in the Age of Social Media
UNL	Natalie Williams	Education and Human Sciences	US Education in a Global Society
UNMC	Martha Goedert	Public Health	Global Health Care and Policy
UNO	Phani Tej Adidam	Business Administration	Globalization of Business Enterprise
UNO	Peter Szto	Public Affairs and Community Service	Global Social Work Engagement

## GRANTS IN 2017-2018

CAMPUS	FACULTY	COLLEGE	COURSE
UNK	Matt Mims	Education	CSP 188 Culture and Ethnic Identity
UNK	Sharon Obasi	Business and Technology	FSID 362 Families and Social Policy
UNL	Loukia Sarroub and Ted Hamann	Education and Human Sciences	Migration, Glocality, and Education in Transnational Times
UNL	Mary Willis and Catherine Riehle	Education and Human Sciences, Libraries	Global Research Experiences in Nutrition and Health
UNMC	Andrew Patterson	Medicine	Monitoring Physiology at the Extremes
UNO	Lyn Holley and Christopher Kelly	Public Affairs and Community Service	Global Perspectives on Aging
UNO	Ramazan Kilinc	Arts and Sciences	Comparative International Development

## GRANTS IN 2018-2019

CAMPUS	FACULTY	COLLEGE	COURSE
UNK	Anna Hain	Arts and Sciences	Global Cultures and Diversity
UNK	Matt Mims and Po Hu	Education	Global Perspectives in Higher Education Student Affairs
UNL	Gregory Simon	Fine and Performing Arts (Hixson-Lied)	Music and Protest in Latin America
UNO	James Wilson	Arts and Sciences	African Ecology

## GRANTS IN 2019-2020

CAMPUS	FACULTY	COLLEGE	COURSE
UNK	Ben Malczyk, Taekyung Park, Jody VanLaningham, Michelle Warren	Arts and Sciences	Spanish 205, Social Work 420, Social Work 467
UNK	Amanda Sladek	Arts and Sciences	English Around the Globe
UNMC	Nancy Krusen and Shaun Horak	Allied Health Professions	Introduction to Interprofessional Global Health
UNO	Shelly Cooper and Katrina Cox	Communication, Fine Arts and Media	Pedagogy of Multicultural Music
UNO	Kerry-Ann Escayg	Education	Advanced Curriculum in Early Childhood Education



## THE NENE FIELD SCHOLARSHIP AT UNO CARRIES ON

UNO's Nene Field Ambassador scholarship started sending students abroad for one-month summer experiences in 1963. Originally, the program was connected with The Experiment in International Living (EIL). In 1994, UNO International Programs renamed the scholarship after Cornelia 'Nene' Field. Nene's daughter had positive experiences with EIL, and Nene donated funds so students who could not normally travel outside the U.S. could live with a family overseas. Remarkably, Nene, a community member and UNO graduate, dedicated more than 40 years to the program and the selection of student ambassadors. Over the history of this scholarship, 63 students of diverse backgrounds have studied in more than 40 countries.

Nene Field Ambassadors are chosen for outstanding academic achievement, leadership skills, community and campus engagement, and intercultural sensitivity. The scholarship endowment has continued to grow after Nene's passing in 2005, and most of the Ambassadors' expenses are covered, including airfare, language study and a meal stipend for 3-4 weeks. Fifty-seven years later, Nene's generous gift lives on for UNO students interested in studying abroad.

Lori Arias, UNO's Associate Director of International Advising, benefited from this scholarship that sent her to Bolivia and Peru in 1979. The leadership experience she gained from the program and the zeal for study abroad helped shape her dedication to International Studies and a career in International Education.

▶▶ **"Nene shared her enthusiasm with students by writing several personal, handwritten notes and welcomed each student back to Omaha with celebrations at her lovely home in Bellevue. She cared deeply about supporting each student and it was not uncommon for her to keep in touch with them for many years. Nene taught me the value of mentoring college students as well as the importance of community-university relationships."**

Lori Arias, associate director of international advising at UNO

Pictured above, left to right: Lori Arias Jacobson in Bolivia with host sister (1979); Nene Field with Suzanne Gates Johnson and Collen Hunter (1992 and 1993); Clarice Dombeck in Senegal (2019)

# NU FOUNDATION'S GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT FUND BENEFITS UNO STUDENT

**O**n August 20th, 2019, my plane landed in Luleå, Sweden. This was the first time I had left my country, and I was anxious because I did not know anybody in Europe, aside from the welcoming committee at my new exchange university, Luleå University of Technology (LTU). The LTU reception committee is a group of student volunteers that help new students in Luleå assimilate to their new home.

With the support of LTU, as well as new friends I have made along the way, as of seven months later, I can truly recognize how much I have grown as a person. I have learned a lifetime worth of knowledge in a short span; the ways in which I have grown are astronomical.

Studying abroad has been such an eye-opening experience that has proven to be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. For many years, I was envious of people who studied abroad, and I finally realized I wanted that same experience, so I pushed myself, and here I am. Just do it!

Thank you so much NU Foundation for supporting my endeavors!  
— *Blake Kinnaman, 27, Omaha, Nebraska*



## HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE

You have the power to transform lives through education abroad scholarships. In fiscal year 2019, more than \$290 million was donated to the University of Nebraska through the NU Foundation.

The University of Nebraska Foundation has over 100 funds dedicated to providing global engagement experiences for students at the University of Nebraska. If you would like to support students at the University of Nebraska, consider a gift to the Global Engagement Fund by visiting <http://nufoundation.org/global> or call 402-458-1100.



The University of Nebraska graduates **11,000+ STUDENTS** annually.



**1,640 NU STUDENTS** studied abroad in 2018-19.



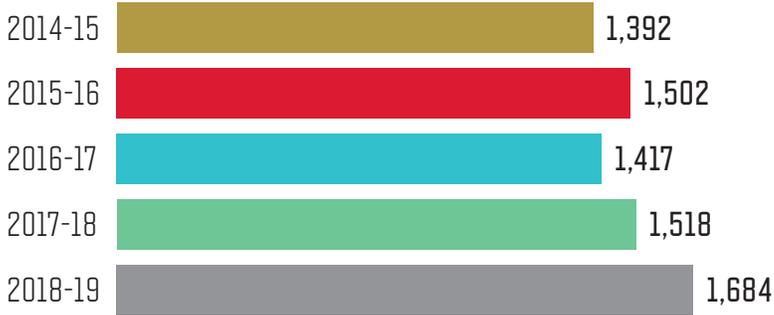
NU students visited **55 COUNTRIES** during their study abroad programs in 2018-19.



With just over 4,500 student support funds created through private gifts, **VERY FEW** are designated for study abroad.

# UNIVERSITY-WIDE TRENDS AND ENROLLMENT PATTERNS

## EDUCATION ABROAD BY YEAR, 2014-2019



## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA, 2014-2019

Fall 2014	Fall 2015	Fall 2016	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019
4,068	4,144	4,339	4,488	4,246	4,110

## TOP DESTINATIONS FOR NU EDUCATION ABROAD STUDENTS, 2018-2019





**STORY AND PHOTO CREDITS:**

Barb Bierman Batie  
 Tyler Ellyson (UNK)  
 Courtney Van Hoosen (UNL)  
 Anlan Cheney (UNMC)  
 Nick Kocmich (UNMC)  
 Victoria Nakibuuka-Muli (UNMC)  
 Tom O'Connor (UNMC)  
 Sara Pirtle (UNMC)  
 Amy Rezac-Elgohary (UNMC)  
 Lori Arias (UNO)

Sher Jan Ahmadzai (UNO)  
 Emily Krueger (UNO)  
 Katie Martikainen (UNO)  
 Deirdre McMurtry (UNO)  
 UNK Communications and Marketing  
 UNK International Education  
 UNL International Student and Scholar Office  
 UNL Office of University Communication  
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 UNO International Programs

