

UNIVERSITY of NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

2021 Global Nebraska Annual Report





03 2021 Review

- 3 Welcome Letter
- 4 Introducing Global Affairs
- 5 2021 Snapshot
- 6 Fast Facts & Global Ties
- 8 Global Strategy Updates

10 Preparing Global Leaders

- 11 Student Highlights
- 12 Peace Corps Prep Prepares Global Change Makers
- 13 Student Research Creates Global Impact

14 Creating Global Connections

- 15 Partnership Highlights
- 16 Nebraska Hosts Largest-Ever International Education Week
- 17 Global Experience Courses Bring World to Nebraska Students

18 Impacting the World

- 19 Research Highlights
- 20 State Department Partnerships Build International Capacity at African Universities
- 21 Public-Private Partnership Creates New Learning Opportunity for Sudanese Scholars

22 Conclusion

- 22 Looking to the Future
- 23 Credits and Contact Information

FRONT COVER: Members of Live Lyve Band and current UNL students from Rwanda perform at a community concert in July 2021 for a College of Business Global Experience course (p. 17).

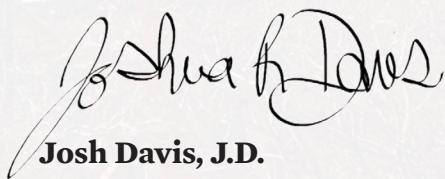
Dear Global Nebraska Community:

Over the past two years, we have faced challenges and losses, but through it all have come together to advance our mission of education, research and engagement and to shape the world around us, both locally and globally. As I look back at the successes and accomplishments of the last year described in this report, I'm proud to say that Nebraska has found and **continued to build on our momentum** in strengthening global engagement and education – even in the midst of a global pandemic.

In February 2021, we debuted the university's **first-ever institutional global strategy, *Forward Together***. This five-year strategy is the culmination of countless hours of gathering feedback from faculty and staff, hosting listening sessions with students, and meeting with stakeholders across the university to identify how we, as Nebraska's flagship institution, can expand our global impact through our students, faculty, staff, alumni, local community and international partners.

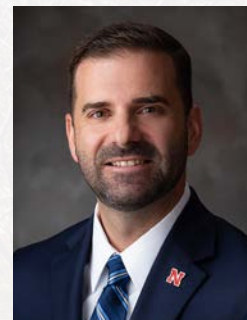
This annual report highlights some of the progress we've achieved, which is deeply rooted in the N2025 Strategic Plan. We are **reimagining what global experiences mean** for students by prioritizing hands-on opportunities through initiatives like the new Global Experience courses that combine global-local contexts and the new Peace Corps Prep undergraduate program. We're also doubling down on **improving support for our international students** with increased cultural and professional programming.

At the end of 2021, we announced a \$5 million project that will renovate Louise Pound Hall into a **new global education center to serve as the physical hub of international activity** at Nebraska. This project, combined with the rebranding of our organization as Global Affairs, gives us greater clarity in our mission as we work to achieve the university's new vision for global engagement. There is more work ahead as we continue to elevate international education at UNL – but with your support, I'm excited to take this momentum into the next year as we move forward, together.



Josh Davis, J.D.

*Associate Vice Chancellor for Global Affairs &
Senior International Officer*
University of Nebraska–Lincoln



WE BELIEVE IN GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT...

... because our world is increasingly interconnected.

... because it diversifies our community — and diversity makes us better.

... because today's grand challenges require global and interdisciplinary solutions.



WE ARE GLOBAL AFFAIRS



Global Partnerships and Initiatives

brings together our university and international community to facilitate campus internationalization efforts, strengthen global partnerships and tell the Global Nebraska story.



The Global Experiences Office

fosters student global awareness and personal, academic and professional growth by offering various study, internship, research and service-learning opportunities on campus and outside the U.S.



Global Safety and Security

leads the International Travel Risk Committee and provides risk management, support and expertise to faculty, staff and students who travel abroad.



The International Student and Scholar Office

provides immigration support and educational programs for international students and scholars to foster a sense of community and belonging and encourage inclusive integration into the Nebraska and local community.



Programs in English as a Second Language

empowers non-native speakers of English through a rigorous and innovative curriculum for language proficiency and fosters an inclusive learning environment by assisting students in adjusting to U.S. campus and classroom cultures.

2021 SNAPSHOT

2021 marked a year of impressive accomplishments as the University of Nebraska-Lincoln set out its new vision for global education and engagement.

Feb. 15: Chancellor Green debuts Nebraska's *Forward Together* global strategy and Grand Challenges at the State of Our University address

Chancellor Green outlined seven "Grand Challenges" that will help direct Huskers' ongoing research and creative activity.



Feb. 17: Faculty from 6 colleges receive funding for Global Experiences programs

Apr. 21: The Global Nebraska Coalition on Diversity and Inclusion virtually hosts Paul Gorski, founder of Equity Literacy Institute, with several campus partners



International graduate student Tamayo Zhou from China helped organize university support in the face of growing anti-Asian sentiment.

May 7: Graduates celebrate in person for a record-breaking commencement at Memorial Stadium



Akshat Goel, an international graduate from India, celebrates in Memorial Stadium after receiving his computer science degree.

Jun. 15: Nebraska pivots to host virtual Mandela Washington Fellowship

Electrical and computer engineering major Andre' Sharp III becomes one of the first Huskers to return abroad while studying in Valencia, Spain in Fall 2021.



Jul. 22: 8 Huskers participate in the Tokyo Olympics, including two current student-athletes

Aug. 31: The Afghan Student Association rallies community support at Peace for Afghans rally

Oct. 1: More than 100 international students carry their national flag at the 2021 Homecoming Parade



Yi Xuen Tay, a graduate student from Malaysia, was awarded Diversity Abroad's Global Student Leadership Award at Global Inclusion 2021.

Nov. 1: A record-breaking International Education Week begins with 100+ events

Nov. 15: \$5 million renovation of Pound Hall for a global education center is announced



Huskers experienced cultures from around the world at the International Education Week signature event, Global Café and Connections.

2021 FAST FACTS

Reykjavík, Iceland

Irina Filina, assistant professor in Earth & Atmospheric Sciences

For geophysicist Irina Filina and Expedition 396, capturing Earth's prehistoric volcanoes meant drilling for long-cooled magma miles beneath the North Atlantic. For two months aboard the research drilling ship, Filina and 20 other scientists tried to unravel implications for climate change today. "We all spoke different languages, we all represented different cultures. You're learning from those people, and you see how they analyze their data."



Arusha, Tanzania

Carlos Urrea, Panhandle

Research & Extension Center

Dry bean breeding specialist Carlos Urrea researches how Nebraska can breed stronger bean varieties and leads several joint research projects in Puerto Rico, New Zealand and other locations. In 2021, Urrea hosted Tanzanian bean breeder Teshale A. Mamo at his Scottsbluff, Nebraska office to explore how a new international partnership can improve nutrition and food security in Eastern and Central Africa, as well as future visits from African farmers.



Lincoln, Nebraska, USA

Mauricio Murga Rios, Law '21

After graduation, Mauricio Murga Rios headed to Florida to serve as Nebraska's first Immigrant Justice Corps Fellow. Inspired by his own experience, the prestigious fellowship allows him to continue supporting the needs of immigrants. "I want to be the best, because people without access to a lawyer need and deserve the best."



León, Nicaragua

Stacie Ray, professor & Hannah Ditmars, assistant professor, Special Education & Communication Disorders

Although it's been three years since Ray or Ditmars have been to Nicaragua, a partnership with the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua, León ensured their Husker audiology program could continue. Ray and Ditmars connected with UNAN-León professors to send 80 hearing aids, 5,000 batteries, supplies for hearing aid repair and more. "We couldn't be more pleased with this strong collaborative relationship with UNAN-León."

2,298 International Students
**Data compiled in Fall 2020*

389 International Scholars

119 Countries Represented

& GLOBAL TIES

As we continue to transition out of the pandemic, Huskers around the world found creative ways to engage the world and build new connections.



Beijing, China
Yujia Wang, professor,
Landscape Architecture

Growing up in China, Yujia Wang discovered urban design after watching his country's cityscapes rapidly change. In 2021, he was recognized in Forbes China 30 Under 30 – the first landscape architect ever selected. “To be listed along with other impactful peers is a unique recognition. Landscape architecture, in my view, is a key discipline as society deals with issues of spatial inequality, climate risks, cultural identity and others.”

Seoul, South Korea

Jennifer Au, secondary
math education

In July, Jennifer Au was one of the first Huskers to study abroad after pandemic restrictions ended, documenting her experience while improving her language skills. “Culture plays a big part in my undergrad years and has influenced me to become involved with various Asian cultural organizations. I hope that my story will influence others to also take the step out of their comfort zone to travel abroad and learn about other cultures.”



56 Student Participants
in Education Abroad
**Data includes Summer and Fall 2021*

13 Countries Visited on
Education Abroad Programs

162 Student Participants in Global
Experience Courses

\$67.2M

Economic Benefit
Generated from
International
Students,
Supporting

682

Jobs

\$320M

Total Research
Expenditures in
FY2021

\$99.9K
Funding Disbursed to
Students for Global
Experiences
*11 Funded Programs
6 Academic Colleges*

47

National Student
Awards Earned in 2021

*10 Fulbright Awards
3 Boren Scholarships
31 Gilman Scholarships
3 Critical Language Scholarships*

FORWARD TOGETHER

A Global Strategy for UNL

As the university's first institutional global strategy, *Forward Together* is a comprehensive road map that strengthens and expands global engagement and education over the next five years.

Since its debut at the State of Our University address in February 2021, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has made several advancements in accomplishing the strategy's four goals.



2021 PROGRESS UPDATES



Thanks to the ITRC, senior marketing major Jada Moore was able to study abroad in London, England before graduating.

GOAL 1 Future and World Ready: Reimagine what constitutes a global experience for our students - inside and outside the classroom.

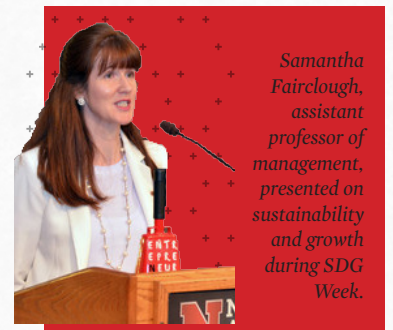
In early 2021, the university created the **International Travel Risk Committee** to plan for the safe return to international travel. Chaired by Dave Long, global safety and security director, the multi-disciplinary committee rigorously analyzes risks associated with each international travel request. In May, the first critical faculty research trip was approved, followed by study abroad programs in July – empowering Huskers' pursuit of global experiential learning and research.

Additional accomplishments towards Goal 1 include the successful launch of **11 new Global Experiences programs** in summer and fall 2021 offered as an alternative to traditional study abroad programs, and establishing a new global credential program via **Peace Corps Prep**.

GOAL 2 Partner for Impact: Support and incentivize contributions towards solving world challenges through strategic partnerships.

In addition to support via the International Travel Risk Committee for international faculty research, Nebraska made progress towards Goal 2 with the celebration of **Sustainable Development Goals Week** in March 2021. Coordinated by Global Affairs and the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Huskers attended various seminars and interactive workshops that touched on ten of the 17 SDGs.

The university also announced a **\$40 million commitment** to fund research related to Nebraska's seven Grand Challenges over the next four years, as well as a series of community-building events that will help build faculty and staff global expertise networks.



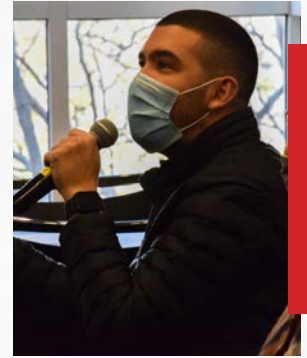
Samantha Fairclough, assistant professor of management, presented on sustainability and growth during SDG Week.

GOAL 3

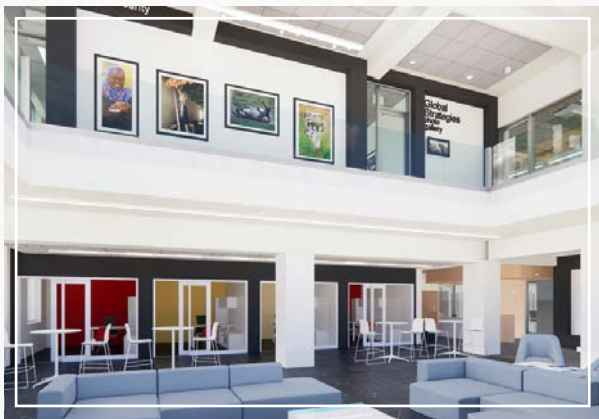
Bring the Best to Nebraska: Be a magnet for the best and brightest students, scholars, faculty and staff from around the world.

Significant progress was made towards Goal 3 to increase support for international students and scholars. A new **director of international recruitment strategy** that jointly reports to the Office of Admissions and Global Affairs began in the fall that will focus on creating new pathways to Nebraska while leveraging current international partnerships. An **assistant director in the International Student and Scholar Office** focuses on student engagement and advocacy, as well as the development of **new cultural and career-related programming**.

The Global Nebraska Coalition on Diversity and Inclusion also increased its activity through three DEI-related book clubs, a series of guest lectures examining diversity movements around the world and **collaborative events with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion** in 2021.



Increased ISSO programming includes an emphasis on workshops for student career development, such as this international alumni panel.



Architect's rendering of the Global Education Center

GOAL 4

Strong Foundation: Strengthen the university's global affairs infrastructure and operations to anchor engagement for years to come.

One of the crowning achievements in 2021 was **securing \$5 million for renovating Louise Pound Hall** into a new global education center on campus that will serve as the physical hub for the university's international activity. Goal 4 progress also included the **rebranding of international units under the Global Affairs umbrella** and renaming two of these offices to better clarify missions and align with the global strategy.

LOOKING AHEAD

In 2022, Global Affairs is excited to move forward together with our campus partners in continuing momentum on the global strategy with the initiatives outlined below.

GOAL 1

- Launch the expanded Global Experiential Learning Fund for new student courses
- Continue developing what “global experiences” mean through the Global Experiences Office

GOAL 2

- Integrate Nebraska's Grand Challenges and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals into internationalization funding opportunities

GOAL 3

- Leverage partnerships to identify new pathway programs to UNL for international students
- Expand career resources and programming for international students, especially at the graduate level

GOAL 4

- Begin moving into the new Global Education Center
- Continue working with the University of Nebraska Foundation to explore fundraising efforts for Global Affairs

Read the complete *Forward Together* strategy at go.unl.edu/globalstrategy.

For the first time since December 2019, Husker graduates returned to celebrate in-person with a historic ceremony at Memorial Stadium in May 2021.



PREPARING GLOBAL LEADERS

In our commitment to preparing students for today's interconnected world, the university has continued to organize professional and personal growth opportunities with hands-on learning at its heart.



Nebraska ranked among best for student Fulbrights

For the fourth time in the past decade, the U.S. Department of State ranked the University of Nebraska-Lincoln **among the nation's best for total Fulbright awards earned by students**, thanks to the support of the Office of National and International Fellowships. During the 2020-21 application cycle, 30 Nebraska students submitted Fulbright applications, including 16 semi-finalists and 10 finalists. Nebraska was also named a top producer of student Fulbright awards in 2012, 2013 and 2019.



Yeutter Student Fellows program paves way for trade careers

Through its student fellows program, the **Clayton Yeutter Institute of International Trade and Finance** is paving the way to provide real-world experience, networking and career exploration for a new generation of international trade leaders. The pilot cohort included students from 13 majors who produced individual briefing papers on international trade partnerships and markets. "When this opportunity came up, I knew it could be the perfect way to figure out if government and politics is something that I wanted to pursue further," said Malina Lindstrom, a junior fellow.



Students examine world issues through Nebraska Ambassadors Forum

Former U.S. ambassadors Tibor P. Nagy Jr., Wanda L. Nesbitt and W. Stuart Symington IV met with students and the UNL community for the **2021 Nebraska Ambassadors Forum** in October. Hosted with the American Academy of Diplomacy and local partners, the discussion examined policy issues facing African governments and the international community, including climate change and regional stability. "It's a great opportunity for Huskers to learn about a dynamic part of the world from distinguished experts," said Josh Davis, associate vice chancellor for global affairs.

Junior Katie Schmitz (right) joined the inaugural Peace Corps Prep cohort after volunteering in Arusha, Tanzania in summer 2021.

Peace Corps Prep prepares students to be global change makers

In fall 2021, the University of Nebraska–Lincoln became one of 11 new institutions partnering with the Peace Corps on an undergraduate program that integrates coursework and experiential learning to prepare students for international development fieldwork after graduation.

Peace Corps Prep combines UNL coursework with hands-on experiences to build the competencies needed to succeed as Peace Corps volunteers or work in other international fields. Upon successful completion, students will receive a certificate from the Peace Corps.

“This program closely aligns with several N2025 goals around experiential learning, diversity and inclusion, and addressing grand challenges,” said Rebecca Baskerville, program coordinator and associate director of experiential and global learning in the University Honors Program. “Having this program helps raise awareness on campus of Peace Corps service as a fulfilling, impactful post-graduation experience.”

During the program launch on Sept. 28, Peace Corps staff and returned volunteers — including Husker alumni and staff — spoke about the impact of Peace Corps service. Undergraduate students of all majors in good standing are eligible to apply for the program. Special opportunities through Nebraska’s program include mentorship from local returned volunteers, coaching in the Intercultural Development Inventory assessment, and a guaranteed

scholarship of up to \$5,000 for participants to study or intern abroad in select locations related to the Peace Corps.

The interdisciplinary program is housed in Nebraska’s Global Experiences Office, with the School of Global Integrative Studies serving as the academic partner. While students are encouraged to apply for Peace Corps service after completing the program, they are not obligated to serve nor guaranteed acceptance.

“The skills developed through this program will be highly valuable for students’ careers, whether or not they ultimately serve in Peace Corps,” added Baskerville.

Learn more about the program at go.unl.edu/pcprep.



Katherine Lacy, returned Peace Corps Volunteer (China '10-12) and program development officer at Serve Nebraska, spoke at the PC Prep launch event about how serving in the Peace Corps changed her career.

Student research efforts make global impact

The N2025 Strategic Plan and *Forward Together* both emphasize giving students hands-on learning opportunities that prepare them to be Future and World Ready. The students below are just a few of the impressive Huskers making an impact in the community and around the world through research.



Rubi Quiñones working in the field

Doctoral student Rubi Quiñones is a polylinguist. She knows 10 coding languages and five spoken languages, including English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean and Bangla. But it's her research in computer science that sets her apart from her colleagues. Quiñones develops algorithms to improve overall crop performance by combining co-segmentation and plant phenotypes, which are measurable plant traits such as height or leaf area.

"I'm very happy that I can use my strengths to help the world in some way," said Quiñones. "To help the environment is a very good thing as humans occupying this planet, and I feel that's one of my strengths through coding."

Gabin Kundwa first came into contact with Connection Point, a church and outreach center near East Campus, by volunteering for a class. Long after his 20 hours were met, the senior integrated science major and Honors student from Rwanda kept volunteering. Kundwa, who taught himself computer programming, thought he could help by building a website to streamline the intake process for the center's pantry and run reports in one click.

"What motivated me was that I want to use my computer science knowledge for community development," Kundwa said. "I have these skills, so how can I solve a real-life problem?"

Thanks to his solution, Connection Point can serve the 12,000 people who use the pantry faster and more efficiently than ever before.



Gabin Kundwa built the automated system for the pantry



Memory Manda

Memory Manda, a sociology graduate student from Lusaka, Zambia, came to Nebraska with a clear goal: make a lasting impact in her home country. As a recipient of the National Institutes of Health Fogarty Grant for HIV research training, her research studies the social-behavioral aspect of Kaposi sarcoma, a skin cancer that occurs in HIV-positive people and the second most common cancer in Zambia.

"In Zambia, there isn't a lot of information on Kaposi sarcoma, especially the barriers. Most people focus on the disease itself, and not the social-behavioral aspect," said Manda. "My biggest goal is to find myself in a place, maybe a university or nonprofit organization, that does the kind of research I like."

Brazilian graffiti artist Eder Muniz gifted his artwork for the new Global Education Center after leading a seminar and live painting exhibition on campus Sept. 7.

CREATING GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

One of the strengths of the Husker community is that we come from all around the world and cherish our multicultural ties. In 2021, we found new ways to create global connections right here in the Lincoln community.



Community partnership creates multicultural story repository for Lincoln children

Through the power of stories and technology, children in Lincoln can now experience the world by listening to fables, games and stories as told by 25 leaders from across Africa. When the **Mandela Washington Fellowship** pivoted to a virtual Leadership Institute in 2021, Global Affairs' new partnership with Lincoln Littles enabled Fellows to participate in community service virtually and leave a lasting impact in Nebraska. "This created an amazing resource for childcare providers with a focus on diversity, equity and inclusion," said Anne Brandt, executive director of Lincoln Littles.



Extension bridges global-local community

Led by Nebraska Extension and Global Affairs, several university offices partnered to support **Afro Fest Omaha 2021**, a festival connecting people across Nebraska and honoring Omaha's expanding community of African refugees, immigrants and local businesses. During the festival, Extension specialists hosted a booth to educate community members about nutrition and how youth can foster their interests in agriculture, locally and globally. "It was great to celebrate African cultures and contributions that have strengthened the Nebraska economy and our communities as a whole," said Stephanie Thorson, 4-H extension educator.



Nebraska named host partner for Japan Outreach Initiative Program

After a year delay from the COVID-19 pandemic, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln was thrilled to welcome Mariko Nagai to campus as the **Japan Outreach Initiative Coordinator**. Through the JOI Program, funded by the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership and Laurasian Institute, Nagai promotes cultural exchange and helps UNL build partnerships with the local Japanese community and university partners. "Even with the difficulties that sometimes come with organizing presentations and programs, I love connecting people to people and being here in Nebraska," Nagai said.

During the signature event, Global Cafe and Connections, various multicultural student groups performed while guests enjoyed cuisines from nine countries.

Nebraska hosts largest-ever International Education Week

Every November, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln comes together to celebrate International Education Week and the benefits of a global education. 2021 marked the university's largest-ever IEW celebration with more than 100 events organized to highlight the wealth of global opportunities available to students and the international experiences of the Husker community. The celebrations were also expanded from the traditional one week to the full month of November.

The events, coordinated by Global Affairs and hosted by more than 25 campus units, included special presentations on cultural exchange and education abroad, culinary opportunities, language tables and multicultural registered student organization meetings.

"We are committed to expanding global learning experiences at UNL. The strong support for IEW across campus demonstrates the variety of opportunities available at Nebraska," said Josh Davis, associate vice chancellor for global affairs.

The 2021 signature event, Global Café and Connections, was hosted Nov. 16 in partnership with the College of Business. The event invited the university community to sample food from local businesses and experience cultural

presentations from various student groups.

The expanded IEW celebrations also increased student exposure to language learning and opportunities related to international career goals. Several members of the Business International Student Association taught a session on common greetings in Arabic, Spanish and Portuguese to international and domestic students.

"These events help raise awareness towards the many opportunities and communities that await us outside of our university and the United States," said Tyanna Monson, a sophomore international business major.

The university community also had the chance to sample different traditional hot beverages from six countries at Global Hot Drinks, hosted by the International Student and Scholar Office and other campus partners. Another event, International Student Career Pathway, included a panel of international student alumni and resume reviews by university staff.

Moving forward, Global Affairs is excited to continue expanding International Education Week by pulling in more student partners and continuing the month-long schedule. Learn more at go.unl.edu/iew2021.



“

IEW has widened our approach to people, and we had the chance to get involved with other organizations and events... It was such a great experience.

- Wan Farhana Natasya, vice president of the Nebraska University Malaysian Student Association (NUMSA) and junior advertising and public relations major

”

New Global Experience courses bring the world to Nebraska students

Despite the pandemic's challenges, Nebraska's Global Experiences Office (formerly Education Abroad) has continued to find new ways to expand global learning and support internationalized curriculum. Launched in 2021, the office's experiential learning fund enabled more than 160 students to develop cultural competency through new Global Experience programs.

Global Experience courses include virtual and global-local experiential learning components that allow students to develop cross-cultural skills and prepare for today's interconnected world as alternatives to traditional study abroad. 11 programs across six colleges were piloted in summer and fall 2021.

Through these courses, students had the chance to meet virtually with world leaders they couldn't have otherwise. In "Negotiating Peace: From Conflict to Coexistence," students met with former Irish prime minister Bertie Ahern to discuss his perspective in negotiating the 1998 Good Friday Agreement and compare it with other global conflict case studies.

The courses also allowed students to meet and learn from their peers around the world. In "Global Startup Communities," Nebraska students explored the principles of entrepreneurship and learned more about the history and culture of Rwanda from their peers at African Leadership University. At the end of the course, students celebrated with a community concert that featured Live Lyve Band, a group made of UNL international students from Rwanda who also connected with the course throughout the summer.

Other programs included professional development opportunities, such as the Flyover Summit hosted by

"This course taught me a lot about Rwanda and how important it is to be aware of things that may affect other people."

—Ellie Moncrief, senior international business major



Students in the "Negotiating Peace" Global Experience course had the chance to discuss real-life conflict negotiation with former Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern (top center) via Zoom.

the Johnny Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts that explored rural-urban systems design and global environmental issues. Another program enabled College of Business students to complete their capstone course over the summer by developing a business case for We Loop Brazil, a secondhand clothing shop, to enter the U.S. market. In addition to working with Brazilian students, many of the UNL students also came from other countries and international backgrounds.

"Students no longer have to go abroad to have a global learning experience," said Cody Hollist, interim director of Global Experiences and associate professor in child, youth and family studies. "As a key initiative in our global strategy, these programs make it possible for more students to engage the world right here in Lincoln."



IMPACTING THE WORLD

Jaideep Sahni, a doctoral student in biomedical engineering, examines human aortic endothelial cells while researching cardiovascular diseases in Ryan Pedrigi's Scott Engineering Center lab.

In 2021, Nebraska identified seven Grand Challenges to help guide research and creative activities as we work in interdisciplinary ways to solve world issues.



Husker team takes leading role at CERN's Large Hadron Collider

Leveraging Nebraska's strength in quantum science and engineering, the **Department of Physics and Astronomy** received a five-year, \$51 million grant from the National Science Foundation to collaborate with partners at the **European Organization for Nuclear Research**, known as CERN. The UNL team will lead an operations program for CERN's **Large Hadron Collider**, the world's largest, most powerful particle accelerator. "[This team's] commitment to maximizing the instrument's potential paves the way for scientists at Nebraska and around the world to continue making groundbreaking discoveries in physics," said Bob Wilhelm, vice chancellor for research and economic development.



Entrepreneurship professor builds bridges between cultures

Drawing from her own experience coming to the U.S. from South Korea, Surin Kim is tackling diversity by helping youth, women and immigrants explore entrepreneurship. Since joining Nebraska in 2016, the assistant professor and extension specialist in **Textiles, Merchandising and Fashion Design** has received multiple grants to investigate youth civic engagement and entrepreneurship in Nebraska, and has created a multicultural workshop series that brings together immigrants and Nebraskans. "I want to go a step beyond talking about diversity by building a cohesive community where diversity is valued because it supports meaningful connections and a healthier ecosystem in society," said Kim.



Nebraska journalism professor investigates the lure of extremism

Five years ago, journalism professor Joseph Weber became intrigued by news of young Somali Americans in Minnesota accused of a plot to join ISIS. This curiosity and his investigations into how technology and misinformation were used to recruit people led Weber to author ***Divided Loyalties: Young Somali Americans and the Lure of Extremism***, which explored the lure of extremism in youth and how community organizations responded. "I believe policymakers can learn techniques for combatting the appeals from all sorts of cults," said Weber. "I hope the book contributes to that understanding."

Nebraska partners with State Department to build capacity at African universities

Over the last decade, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has built strategic partnerships across Africa. In 2021, Nebraska helped build capacity at universities in Senegal and Rwanda funded by two grants from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of African Affairs.

One of the University Partnerships Initiative (UPI) grants from the U.S. Embassy in Rwanda enabled Nebraska to work with administrators at four Rwandan universities to build international partnership management capacity.

"[This is] an important investment in education, helping to position American and Rwandan institutions to take full advantage of all of the opportunities that come with international partnerships in higher education," said Peter H. Vrooman, U.S. Ambassador to Rwanda.

The University Partnerships and Exchange (UPEX) Rwanda fellowship also supported reciprocal engagement between U.S. and Rwandan institutions through virtual training and mentorship opportunities, and the creation of a higher education professionals network across Rwanda.

"One of the most valuable lessons I learned was grant writing, which helped me write a successful grant proposal to the U.S. Embassy," said Didacienne Mukanyiligira, a UPEX-Rwanda fellow and head of Master's Studies at the University of Rwanda.

Nebraska's UPI Senegal project focused on enhancing instructional design capacity and expertise of STEM faculty at public universities across Senegal. The program



Through a partnership with Bridge2Rwanda, UPEX-Rwanda fellows were able to safely meet in-person during the pandemic while American experts Zoomed in.

included evidence-based techniques taught through online discussion boards and Zoom sessions, led by the College of Engineering with French translation support from the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures.

"Working on this grant has been incredibly rewarding to see the growth in the fellows' instructional design ability, as well as advancing our college strategic goals in global partnerships," said Tareq Daher, director of the Engineering and Computing Education Core and PI for the UPI Senegal project.

"Both these programs demonstrate how Nebraska can leverage connections with our academic units and international partners to build new global partnerships and networks," said Josh Davis, associate vice chancellor for global affairs.

Learn more about both programs at go.unl.edu/upi.

UPI Senegal fellows received certificates from College of Engineering leadership at the U.S. Embassy in Senegal.





The four Sudanese scholars joined other international students for the 2021 Homecoming Parade in downtown Lincoln.

Public-private partnership creates new opportunities for Sudanese scholars

With critical support from Programs in English as a Second Language (PIESL), the University of Nebraska-Lincoln welcomed a new cohort of students from an international public-private partnership that will enable Sudanese professionals to earn a master’s degree in biological systems engineering.

The new program was formed with support from Zadna International Investment Co. in Sudan and Valmont Industries in Nebraska. Four Sudanese scholars arrived in fall 2021, including Osman Adam, Suhib Hamid, Moaz Ishag and Abdalhakam Almagzoo.

The mission of the program is to develop a cadre of skilled managers and professionals capable of growing and managing large-scale commodity crops in Sudan using the latest irrigation, mechanical and biological technology.

“Studying at UNL will change my life, my career and my country. It will also give a big chance for me to develop my skills and knowledge.”

-Sudanese scholar Moaz Ishag

During the first semester of the program, scholars are enrolled in PIESL’s Intensive English Program to improve

their academic language skills before they begin their graduate program.

“PIESL is proud to be a part of this innovative endeavor,” said Chris Dunsmore, director of PIESL. “This public-private partnership is directly aligned with the Forward Together global strategy that aims to support and incentivize contributions towards solving world challenges through strategic partnerships.”

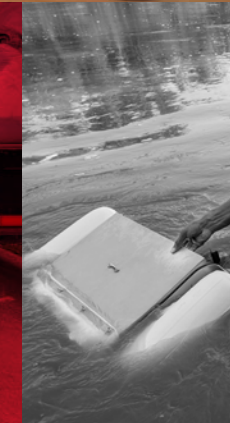
The partnership serves as a learning opportunity for the scholars to expand their language and professional skills in preparation for a competitive global market while making a difference in their home countries. In addition to language classes, PIESL is helping the scholars integrate into the community by organizing social and cultural opportunities in Lincoln. In October, the scholars joined the university’s Homecoming Parade with more than 100 international students. PIESL staff has also organized opportunities for the scholars to explore the local community, campus and build connections with one another.

Upon graduation, the scholars will return to Sudan to continue their professional work at Zadna and support its partnership with Valmont to improve sustainable agriculture and water security throughout Sudan.

Learn about PIESL’s customized programs at piesl.unl.edu.

LOOKING FORWARD

As we move forward, together – through a global pandemic, towards our global strategy goals – we are eager to work with our campus and international partners to reimagine what a global experience looks like and expand the impact of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



TOGETHER



CREDITS

Courtney Van Hoosen
Chief Editor & Project Director

Mia Azizah
Writer & Photographer

Maegan Stevens-Liska
Editor

Contributors:

Kelcey Buck

Chris Dunsmore

Ronica Stromberg

Bhavana Sunil

Tiffany Lee

Dave Long

Farmers Review Africa
University Communication

Designed By:

Courtney Van Hoosen

Printed By:

University Print Services

Additional Photo Credits:

Craig Chandler (p.2, 4, 5, 10, 11,
13, 18, 19, 23)

Garrett Stolz (p.1, 16, 23)

Andre' Tharp III (p.5)

Yi Xuen Tay (p.5)

College of Education &
Human Sciences (p.6, 7, 22)

Jada Moore (p.8)

Adriana Miller (p.11)

Katie Schmitz (p.12)

Wan Farhana Natasya (p.16)

College of Business (p.16)

College of Engineering (p.20)

Crystal Bock-Thiessen (p.23)

Annie Albin (Back Cover)

UNIVERSITY of NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

Copyright © 2022

The University of Nebraska does not discriminate based on race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, and/or political affiliation in its programs, activities, or employment.

**Office of Global Partnerships
& Initiatives**

University of Nebraska–Lincoln
Love Library South 110
1240 R Street
Lincoln, NE 68588-4112



Global Affairs

PHONE **+1 (402) 472-5864** | FAX **+1 (402) 472-5383** | EMAIL **globalaffairs@unl.edu**

globalnebraska.unl.edu | [@GlobalNebraska](https://twitter.com/GlobalNebraska) | [@GlobalNebraska](https://facebook.com/GlobalNebraska)

[@GlobalNebraska](https://instagram.com/GlobalNebraska) | linkedin.com/school/globalnebraska