

UNIVERSITY *of* NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

2020 Global Nebraska Annual Report



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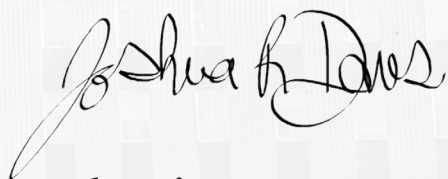
Dear Global Nebraska Community:

The year 2020 was certainly a year like no other. At the beginning of January when our Global Affairs teams were among the first to encounter the effects of the pandemic, we couldn't imagine how different our work would look a year later. Yet from the tireless work of our Education Abroad and Global Strategies teams to get our students, faculty and staff home safely, to the university-wide response to support our international students unable to return home during the pandemic, **Nebraska remained dedicated to supporting the entire university community.**

The last year has been a reminder of the **interconnectedness of our world**, the range of global challenges that we face and the importance of higher education contributing solutions to these challenges. I am proud to be part of an institution like the University of Nebraska-Lincoln that continues to recognize the importance of global engagement and incredibly grateful for the entire talented Global Affairs team that supports these activities.

This annual report highlights the **resilience of our global education and engagement activities**, and celebrates our many successes in a year filled with uncertainty. I am proud that we found innovative ways to provide virtual connections to students through global classrooms, graduation receptions and other new initiatives. We have also renewed our commitment to global engagement as an institution by completing the American Council on Education Internationalization Laboratory and establishing Forward Together, a global strategy for UNL.

As we look to the future, **our work in international education is going to be as important as ever.** Campus internationalization already looks different as we begin to move past the pandemic, yet I remain confident that with the help of our global units and our campus and international partners, Nebraska will continue to move forward together as the transformative, world-leading, 21st-century university we can be.



Josh Davis, J.D.

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



GLOBAL NEBRASKA ADAPTS TO COVID

January 2020: By January, the Global Strategy Committee convenes for the first time to examine the university's historical global engagement and future opportunities. Education Abroad begins to support the university's COVID-19 response as the U.S. Department of State warning level for China rises to Level 4 and aids a few students to return safely.

February 2020: As the pandemic spreads, the International Student and Scholar Office and Associate Vice Chancellor Josh Davis co-host a listening session on anti-Asian sentiment with the Chinese Student and Scholar Association. Global Nebraska sponsors international campus events such as Rwanda Night and speaks at a U.S. Department of State event on U.S.-Africa university partnerships. By the end of February, Nebraska has canceled study abroad and travel to China and South Korea.



March 2020: Following raised warnings to Italy and Iran, Nebraska suspends non-essential travel until the end of the semester and cancels all study abroad programs through June 30. Education Abroad safely brings 93 students home even as Chancellor Green announces a university-wide transition to remote learning starting on March 30.

April 2020: International Student and Scholar Offices (ISSO) begins to offer remote advising for international students considering returning home and launches new virtual opportunities to stay connected. With commencement being celebrated virtually, ISSO and Global Strategies work with the University Registrar to ensure international students receive their diplomas.

May 2020: Global Strategies celebrates a virtual transition of its International Student Graduation Reception with the Nebraska Alumni Association on May 9, garnering more than 1,500 views worldwide. Education Abroad focuses on creating new student opportunities, including Virtual International Programs and career development workshops for returnees.

June 2020: On June 18, Chancellor Green announces extended travel restrictions through July 31, the cancellation of fall study abroad programs and plans for a hybrid return. Global Affairs continues to develop innovative programs, including a Virtual Study Abroad Day where international students share about their home country, and hosts a virtual study abroad program for 30 Egyptian students with funding from AMIDEAST Egypt.



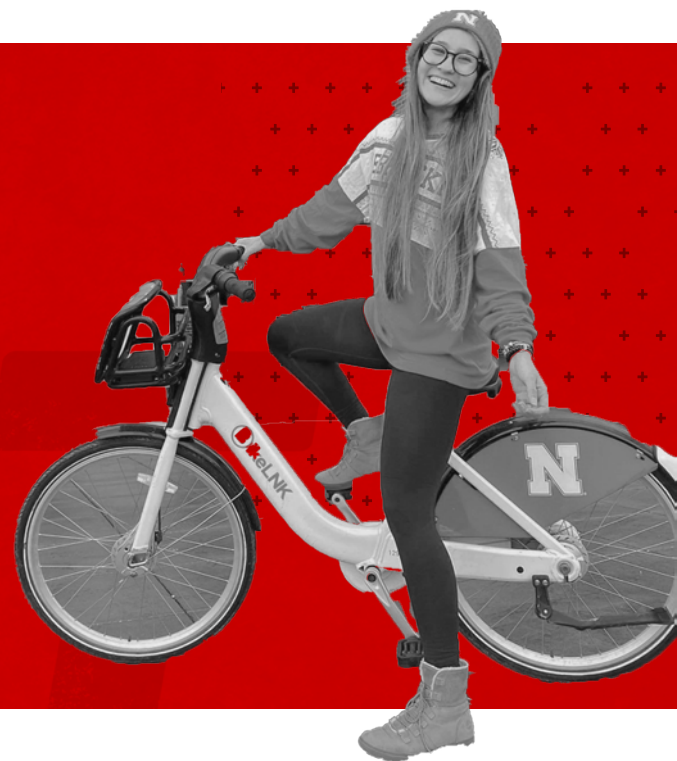
We began the year building on the momentum of our 150th university anniversary and launching our process to write Nebraska's first global strategy. Yet when it became clear the COVID-19 pandemic would make 2020 a year like no other, Global Nebraska stepped up to support the university's response and find innovative ways to engage globally.

July 2020: With the help of two international graduate assistants, Global Strategies launches the UNL Mandela Alumni Network and reconnects with its 75 Mandela Washington Fellowship Alumni. Education Abroad celebrates the awarding of 30 new Gilman Scholarships, boosting 2019-20 academic year awards to a new record of 47 recipients.

August 2020: Following the Forward to Fall hybrid return, Global Nebraska welcomes students back to campus and continues to offer hybrid advising. In partnership with the Rotary Club 14, ISSO launches a new mentorship program to increase professional development opportunities for international students.

September 2020: Associate Vice Chancellor Josh Davis launches the Global Nebraska Coalition on Diversity and Inclusion in alignment with the university's Journey Toward Anti-Racism and Racial Equity. Global Strategies partners with the University of Nebraska at Omaha to virtually host the 2020 Nebraska Ambassadors Forum.

October 2020: In a new partnership with the Nebraska Alumni Association, Global Nebraska celebrates Husker spirit by launching the Global Virtual Alumni Homecoming, gathering photos and memories from 20 global alumni. Education Abroad announces spring study abroad programs are canceled.



November 2020: To accommodate for the truncated fall semester, UNL celebrates International Education Week over a two-week period with more than 40 virtual events and interactive activities. Global Strategies convenes multiple feedback sessions on the global strategy draft among students, faculty and staff.

December 2020: Education Abroad leverages approx. \$100,000 to create the Global Experiences Innovation Fund, encouraging faculty and staff to propose a global-local or virtual course for student experiential learning. Global Strategy Committee co-chairs meet to complete the final draft of the *Forward Together* global strategy.

2020 FAST FACTS

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Christine Haney Douglass, Faculty Fellow, University Honors Program

When the travel component of her Honors Global Dialogues course on human rights was canceled, Haney Douglass connected her students via Zoom to experts at the University of Winnipeg and in Norway. "The chance to engage directly with these caliber of experts, even in the online format, has truly enriched the students' experience in this class. They have been able to conduct their global dialogues even while in quarantine."



Rome, Italy

Lindsay Meyer, Architecture, '20

In Spring 2020, Education Abroad and Global Safety teams worked around the clock to ensure students like Meyer returned safely to Nebraska. "I was a little bit disappointed, but I also knew that we would make the decisions that were safest for everyone. Our faculty leader (Peter Olshavsky) did an excellent job of handling the unknowns and all of the chaos that comes when plans are upended and you're not in a country you're used to."



Lincoln, Nebraska, USA

Gary Kebbel, Emeritus Professor, College of Journalism & Mass Communications

Even as universities transitioned to remote learning, Kebbel's Global Virtual Classroom on news and social media continued to meet via Zoom with their peers at the University of Nizwa, Oman. "COVID-19 is going to change education forever by forcing every classroom to look beyond its boundaries. The conversations [between students] have really blossomed and made all of us kind of feel that we are in this together."



3,339 International Students & Scholars
**Data compiled in Fall 2019*

120 Countries Represented

191 Remote International Students Supported

Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil

Natália Ribiero, Research Scholar, Food Science & Technology

As a former exchange student and research scholar, Ribiero is proud to fly her Husker flag no matter where she is. "It was exciting to participate in the Global Virtual Alumni Homecoming celebration this year to remember the best times at UNL and reconnect with the university. I miss Nebraska so much — I am forever thankful for everything I've experienced there!"



& VIRTUAL CONNECTIONS

As Global Affairs supported the university's pandemic response, we found creative ways to virtually engage our students, faculty, staff and alumni and stay connected around the world.



Kenya
Eric Mugendi, 2019 Mandela Washington Fellow

When the pandemic forced the postponement of the 2020 Mandela Washington Fellowship Leadership Institute, Nebraska used the summer to reconnect with its 75 alumni across Africa through virtual reunions. "I loved being able to see the UNL team again (virtually) and learn how my brothers and sisters are leading across Africa despite the pandemic. Go Big Red!"

Davao City, Philippines

Leslie Pearl Cancio, Fulbright Fellow, Food Science & Technology

Though Cancio wished she could have made connections with her graduate research team in-person, her department went to great lengths to make sure she was connected early with peers and converted her fellowship fully online when the Embassy closed visa processing. "What I like about the setup, especially being enrolled in online classes, is you can see the professor and other students in the class. You get to see people at the same time and can get feedback and share comments."



231 Student Participants in Education Abroad
**Data includes Fall 2019 and early Spring 2020*

32 Countries Visited on Education Abroad Programs

93 Study Abroad Students Safely Returned to UNL during Pandemic

\$95.9M

Economic Benefit Generated from International Students Supporting

973
Jobs

\$320M

Total Research Expenditures in FY2020

53

National Student Awards Earned in 2020

9 Fulbright Awards
3 Boren Scholarships
41 Gilman Scholarships

INTRODUCING **FORWARD TOGETHER**

A Global Strategy for UNL

As we continue to expand our global reach and impact, we must move *Forward Together* to benefit the Husker community, the state of Nebraska and the world.

In fall 2019, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln joined the American Council on Education's 17th Internationalization Laboratory cohort. Building on the N2025 Strategic Plan, *Forward Together* is a comprehensive road map to strengthen and expand global education and impact for years to come. Crafted by an intensive, year-long process led by the Global Strategy Committee and focused by feedback from across campus, the strategy was formally introduced at the 2021 State of Our University Address.



Global Strategy Committee, January 2020

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This five-year plan rightly and declaratively doubles down on the need for and commitment to strategic global partnerships at the current time and into the future.

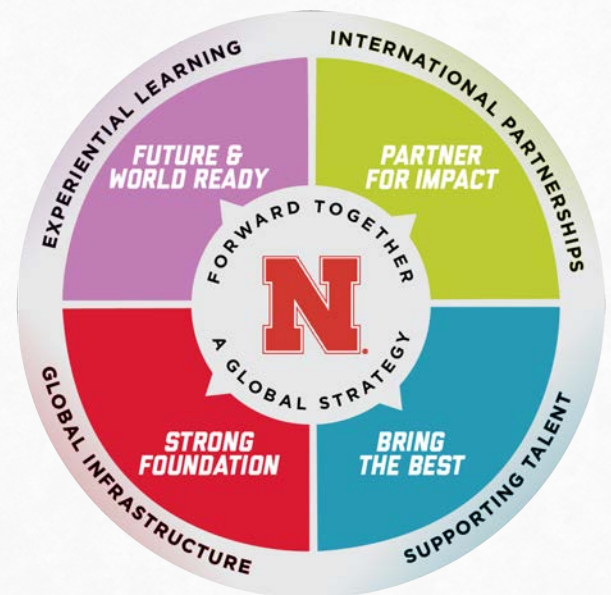
- Chancellor Ronnie Green at the 2021 State of Our University Address

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A Strategic Framework

As the university's first institutional global strategy, *Forward Together* draws from the rich history of international engagement present since the university's founding in 1869. To harness the full capacity of Nebraska as a top institution with global impact, this global strategy outlines four primary goals:

- **Future and World Ready:** Reimagine what constitutes a global experience for our students — inside and outside the classroom
- **Partner for Impact:** Support and incentivize contributions toward solving world challenges through strategic partnerships
- **Bring the Best to Nebraska:** Be a magnet for the best and brightest students, scholars, faculty and staff from around the world
- **Strong Foundation:** Strengthen the university's global affairs infrastructure and operations to anchor engagement for years to come



A Strong Start

In 2020, we made **significant progress** in gathering campus input to condense a two-year process into 12 months and create a strong global strategy. Below is a snapshot of the initiatives and momentum already gathered in the past year on *Forward Together*, which we'll continue to build on in 2021.

September 2020: Embedded Education Abroad coordinators part-time in College of Business, College of Engineering and College of Education and Human Sciences.

November 2020: Created a Global Experiences Innovation Fund to support virtual learning programs as alternatives to canceled summer 2020 study abroad programs.

Summer 2020: Supported the Office of Research and Economic Development in defining and promoting the university's Grand Challenges in alignment with N2025 and the global strategy.

September 2020: Office of Global Strategies and International Admissions team set up regular meetings to collaborate on supporting international student recruitment.

September 2020: Launched the Global Nebraska Coalition on Diversity and Inclusion with guidance from the Office of Diversity and Inclusion to strengthen advocacy and support for equity in global engagement activities.

Fall 2020: Secured university approval and \$5 million in funding from a private donor to renovate and establish a Global Education Center in Louise Pound Hall.

October 2020: Began work on developing a comprehensive communications strategy for Global Affairs.

Measuring Our Progress

Over the next five years, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is committed to accomplishing the initiatives outlined in *Forward Together* in three strategic time periods.

PHASE ONE 2021-2022

- Expand Global Experiential Learning
- Support Internationalization of Curriculum
- Support Faculty & Staff Global Expert Networks
- Adopt United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Framework
- Create New Student Pathways to Nebraska
- Improve Campus Coordination on Global Agenda

PHASE TWO 2023-2025

- Develop a Global Credential
- Leverage & Prioritize International Partnerships
- Strengthen Relationship between Global Affairs & Office of Research & Economic Development
- Track, Recognize & Reward International Activity
- Strengthen Support for International Faculty & Staff

LONG TERM 2021-2025

- Expand Programming & Support for International Students
- Establish Global Affairs as Hub of International Activity at UNL
- Establish Regular Funding Mechanisms to Support Global Affairs Units

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



PREPARING GLOBAL LEADERS

*May 2020 Rwandan graduates
celebrate their accomplishments
outside of University Suites with a
drive-by parade.*

In the N2025 Strategic Plan and *Forward Together* global strategy, Nebraska commits to providing the best possible experience for students by equipping them to be competent and world-savvy citizens. During our remote transition, experiential learning remained at the core of student opportunities.



Yeutter Institute provides opportunity after canceled internships

While the pandemic paused many student internships, the **Clayton Yeutter Institute of International Trade and Finance** refused to let it disrupt student learning opportunities. Five interns worked to analyze the pandemic impact on Nebraska nonprofits and create a database of manufacturing exporters for the **Nebraska Department of Economic Development**. “This internship is more than just learning, but also serving the Nebraska community,” said Savant Nzayiramy, a CUSP scholar and integrated science major from Rwanda.



New School of Global Integrative Studies focused on experiential learning

With an eye on expanding educational and research opportunities, Nebraska’s anthropology, geography and global studies programs formed the new **School of Global Integrative Studies** in April 2020. Combining an array of faculty expertise and subject matter that complement one another, the change has already led to significant growth — including hiring tenure-track faculty, adding two new fields of study and expanding interdisciplinary courses available for students.



International students find more opportunities in Honors Program

When Aime Nishimwe arrived in Nebraska from Rwanda in 2018, he knew he would not be content with merely attending classes — so he set about becoming the first CUSP scholar to be accepted into the **University Honors Program**. Driven by expanded support, targeted outreach and new interest-based Honors Experience Tracks, over 40% of new admits to Nebraska Honors were international students in Fall 2020.

During the fall semester, business major Xiangyuan Su participated in his courses remotely from his hometown of Hangzhou, China.

PIESL sets students up for success, community virtually

When the world went remote, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln stayed connected with its students, faculty and staff around the world. Despite a 14-hour time difference and physically being thousands of miles from Nebraska, transfer student Xiangyuan Su found success while taking classes remotely in China thanks to the dedication of his faculty and classmates.

“I’m looking forward to a fruitful and productive college experience.”

-Xiangyuan Su, business major from Hangzhou, China

A business major from Hangzhou, China, Su was eager to transfer to Nebraska to finish his college career and earn a bachelor’s degree as part of the university’s partnership degree program with Zhejiang University City College. However, he realized in June that his first semester at Nebraska would be remote due to the ongoing challenges of the pandemic.

According to Su, the mixture of synchronous and asynchronous classes did not pose a major challenge in his studies. During his course meetings over Zoom, he was able to virtually meet his classmates, including those in his English 187 course, Academic Writing Skills, taught by Jane B. Miller.

Miller, a lecturer for Programs in English as a Second Language, notes that teaching a hybrid class can be challenging. In Su’s case, the time difference was 14 hours, which meant he joined the afternoon class at 3:30 a.m. in Hangzhou.

To combat this, Miller focused on building a relationship of trust with Su and other remote students, as well as between classmates. She expressed her admiration for the distance students who dedicated more effort to their classes in order to be organized and prepared.

“Access to the instructor and classmates is much more limited, so they have to have their questions prepared before class, quickly grab the opportunity during class or arrange to meet me via Zoom at a different time,” Miller said.

Thanks to the use of cutting-edge technology and Miller’s support, Su also found new ways to stay connected with classmates through class video sessions and Canvas discussion boards. In addition, he connected with other UNL international students using the messaging app WeChat.

As he wrapped up his first semester at Nebraska, Su is excited about his Husker experience and looks forward to arriving on campus in 2021.

ISSO expands immigration support, professional opportunities

As international students made decisions about returning to Nebraska for fall 2020, they had to balance a variety of shifting priorities, including course enrollment and immigration policies.

“We know that our international students were facing unique challenges and uncertainty as they planned for the fall semester, in addition to difficulties with visas, travel restrictions and changing immigration guidance,” said Karen Cagley, director of ISSO.

Over the summer, ISSO offered educational and social events to keep students connected. The team worked with the Office of Admissions to prepare four options for the fall semester to help international students plan around COVID-19 circumstances and continue their UNL education, including options to take courses on campus, online or to defer enrollment. Additional Global Affairs staff were also brought on to help field common enrollment questions, answering over 500 inquiries in one week.

With the hybrid return of students in August, ISSO expanded its long-standing partnership with Lincoln Rotary Club 14 via a virtual welcome picnic and launching a new mentorship program. Several students expressed interest in the professional development opportunity, and five students from Nebraska were chosen for the inaugural cohort, along with students from other universities in Lincoln.

After meeting her mentor in November, senior biological sciences major Naisargee Patel was very excited for the learning opportunity. She was paired with Priscilla Grew, director emerita of the University of Nebraska State Museum and professor emerita in the



International students wearing masks gather outside a bus stop on campus while following social distancing measures put into place for the hybrid return to campus.



Naisargee Patel, senior biological sciences major, and Priscilla Grew, director emerita of the University of Nebraska State Museum, were paired through the Rotary Club 14 International Student Mentoring Program based on mutual interests and ties to India.

Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. Both share a connection to India, where Patel is from and where Grew’s father and uncle were born.

“Priscilla’s knowledge and experiences are valuable assets for me,” Patel said. “I found a friend in her who will try her best to help and support me in all ways possible.”

Based on the strong student interest, ISSO plans to expand the mentoring program and other professional development activities in the future. Staff will also be available for remote or in-person advising during the fall semester.

“International students are an important part of our Husker community, and I am proud of the continuous support the ISSO team and our university partners have provided,” Cagley said.

As a result of the remote learning transition in spring 2020 caused by the pandemic, Nebraska faculty and students used Zoom to connect with partners around the world in courses and research projects.



CREATING GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Forward Together outlines Nebraska's belief in global engagement and collaboration. 2020 was a year of building and expanding our connections around the world as we faced the most severe public health crisis in a century.



Nebraska leads global discussion on leveraging virtual connections in the classroom

In September, Nebraska was one of four institutions to host the 2020 Virtual International Seminar along with the **University of Nizwa** in Oman, **Universiti Teknologi Petronas** in Malaysia and the **Federal University of Rio de Janeiro** in Brazil. More than 1,300 people joined from 24 countries to discuss the impact of the pandemic. Drawing from expertise across campus, Nebraska hosted two sessions on opportunities presented by COVID-19 in U.S. higher education and the value of using virtual classroom exchanges.



Pandemic prompts new six-college collaborative course

More than 30 faculty and staff broke recent university history by launching a **six-college interdisciplinary course** exploring the world's current circumstances due to COVID-19. Through a variety of experiential learning methods, students examined topics including the science of viruses, economic and financial implications, political challenges, the global food supply chain and ways to engineer solutions. "The world's big challenges require us all to work together to come up with creative and necessary solutions," said Erin Burnette, director of the Nebraska Business Honors Academy and the course coordinator.



Grad student lends language, public health skills to community

As a Yezidi refugee who arrived in Lincoln in 2016, Falah Rashoka is well versed in overcoming obstacles. While finishing his master's degree in public health and specializing in marginalized populations, Rashoka volunteered to serve as an interpreter for the **Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department** to disseminate information to Arabic and Kurdish speakers during the COVID-19 pandemic. In collaboration with the **Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services**, Rashoka and other UNL faculty and staff have helped thousands of Lincolniters find medical care and receive updated information to help keep their community safe.

Yalem Teshome (left), instructor for "Around the World in Coffee," sits with a student while waiting for the coffee ceremony demonstration at local Ethiopian restaurant Tiru.

Education Abroad pivots to virtual global experiences

When the COVID-19 pandemic halted international travel, the Education Abroad team found a way to bring the world to students through the expansion and creation of new virtual, global experiences.

"The global pandemic may have limited students' ability to travel overseas, but it did not stop them from wanting to experience cultural exchange," said Rebecca Baskerville, director of the Education Abroad Office.

Nebraska's affiliated partners drew on their academic and professional networks to offer a variety of online courses taught by instructors abroad, host virtual internships and facilitate virtual consulting projects. For Safaa Alkalmishi and Luke Claussen, the pivot was exactly what they needed to gain additional professional experience before graduation.

Alkalmishi, a senior chemical engineering major, originally planned to study abroad in France over the summer but switched to a virtual internship offered by International Studies Abroad. She was matched with Feltwood Ecomateriales based out of Zaragoza, Spain, which produces sustainable industrial materials such as utensils and trays by recycling agricultural plant waste. Alkalmishi played a key role in product and market research for the company as they consider an expansion to the U.S.

Claussen, a junior economics and finance major, interned through IAU Barcelona with wine company Catavinya.

Other faculty leaders at Nebraska chose to convert their study abroad programs to a virtual format, taking advantage of Zoom and other technologies to bring speakers to classes students couldn't otherwise meet. Yalem Teshome, professor of practice in experiential education, used such a model to teach her "Around the World with Coffee" course, virtually hosting speakers from across Africa and a traditional ceremony demonstration from a local Ethiopian restaurant in Lincoln.

In December, Education Abroad launched the Global Experiences Innovation Fund to support the development of affordable virtual, local and domestic travel programs after summer 2021 study abroad was canceled.

"In light of COVID-19, but also broader trends, we must reimagine what constitutes a 'global experience' and leverage technology and resources within our own community to increase access for students," said Josh Davis, associate vice chancellor for global affairs.

Expanded global experiences and virtual programs will continue to be offered to students, even after the pandemic ends, in alignment with the *Forward Together* global strategy.



“

The thing I wasn't expecting the most was actually having a relationship with my boss. That was honestly one of my favorite parts [of the internship] ... the relationships I got out of it and just the professional experience in another culture.

- Luke Claussen, junior economics and finance major

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Global Nebraska joins journey toward anti-racism and racial equity

As America reeled from the senseless deaths of George Floyd and others and a global reawakening in the call for racial justice this summer, faculty and staff in Global Affairs came together to form the Global Nebraska Coalition on Diversity and Inclusion (GNCDI).

In June, all four directors in Global Affairs as well as associate vice chancellor for global affairs, Josh Davis, added their voices to denounce racism, call for justice and stand in solidarity with the Black community along with several members of University of Nebraska leadership. With this message, Global Affairs reaffirmed the urgency for ongoing change and committed to the university's new Journey Toward Anti-Racism and Racial Equity.

"Now must be different," wrote Chancellor Green in his announcement of the new initiative. "We must take real steps to address racial inequities and a history of exclusion."

Over the summer, Global Affairs staff met for a series of town halls to discuss racial equity and current events, which led to some members launching a book club for June and July.

Spurred by the book club and significant interest among faculty and staff, Davis named Marnie Nelson (Education Abroad) and Erika Hepburn (Global Strategies) as co-chairs for the new GNCDI. At the inaugural meeting on September 9, Davis noted the importance of racial equity and social justice to the mission of Global Affairs.

"Our work in global engagement intersects closely with the university's diversity and inclusion efforts – by encouraging students to experience another culture, welcoming international students to campus and helping faculty and staff collaborate globally to solve grand challenges," said Davis.

Open to all faculty and staff in Global Nebraska, the GNCDI is committed to the advancement of diversity and inclusion at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, within the greater Lincoln community, in the U.S. and globally. Coalition members seek to elevate the voices and bring increased attention to the concerns of historically underserved and underrepresented groups.

"The success of the GNCDI is due to our strong partnerships across campus, especially with the Office



The GNCDI works closely with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and supports the work of Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion, Marco Barker.

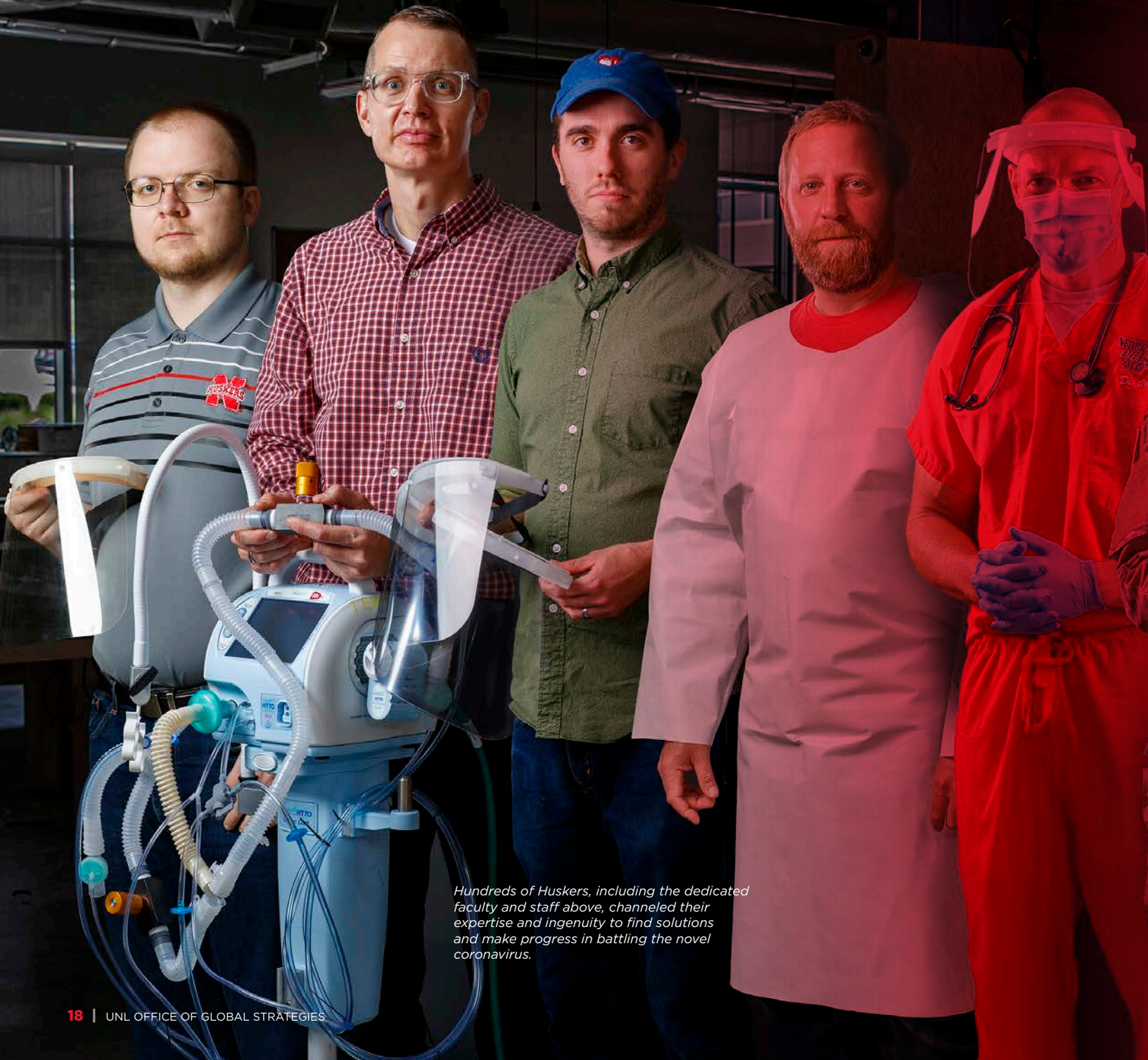
of Diversity and Inclusion," said Hepburn, assistant director of the Office of Global Strategies.

To achieve its mission, the coalition aims to create a safe space for dialogue among colleagues and campus leadership, implement professional development and training opportunities on diversity and inclusion, and host engaging events for Global Nebraska and the entire campus community.

After its successful launch in 2020, GNCDI members look forward to hosting more book clubs, guest speakers and working with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion leadership in accordance with the third initiative of the *Forward Together* global strategy to support diversity and inclusion efforts across the university.

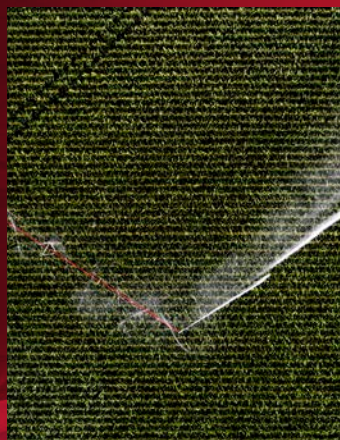
Learn more about the Global Nebraska Coalition on Diversity and Inclusion at <https://go.unl.edu/gncdi>.

IMPACTING THE WORLD



Hundreds of Huskers, including the dedicated faculty and staff above, channeled their expertise and ingenuity to find solutions and make progress in battling the novel coronavirus.

In 2020, engagement and international partnerships drove Nebraska's research and creative activity to find solutions to challenges facing the world — including the novel coronavirus.



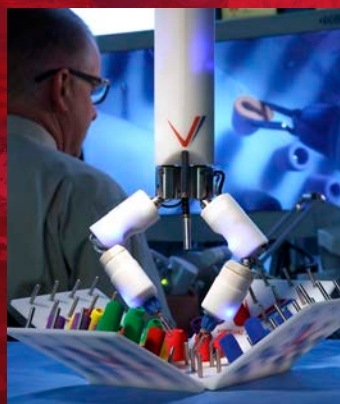
Nebraska team wins grant to advance smallholder farm irrigation in six African nations

Led by the Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, an interdisciplinary Nebraska team received a three-year \$1 million grant from the **International Fund for Agricultural Development** to advance access and education around smallholder farmer irrigation in **Rwanda, Ethiopia, Burundi, Senegal, Niger and Gambia**. Collaborating closely with local partners, the team will examine the sustainability of business models in existing markets and support students interested in agricultural entrepreneurship. This work continues to leverage Nebraska's strengths in scaling agricultural capacity to build efficiency for global food and water security.



Nebraska film shares global message on dissent, civil society

Historian James Le Sueur's film, "The Art of Dissent," has earned accolades at several film festivals since its launch in July 2020, including earning the Best Feature Documentary at the **Big Apple Film Festival**. The documentary explores the role of artistic activism during Czechoslovakia's communist takeover and nonviolent transition from communist power. In addition to collaborating with UNL musicians for the film's score, Le Sueur also worked with exchange alumni from Nebraska's **Robitschek Scholars program** to conduct interviews and gain access to footage from Czech TV.



Faculty startup Virtual Incision receives another \$20M investment

Virtual Incision, a medical device company founded by faculty and based on **Nebraska Innovation Campus**, raised \$20 million in investment funding to support regulatory and clinical programs. The funds will help lead to commercialization of the company's surgical robot platform MIRA, which stands for miniaturized in vivo robotic assistant. This **first-of-its-kind robot** aims to transform abdominal surgeries around the world from open, highly invasive procedures to minimally invasive surgeries with significantly shorter recovery times.

Nebraska research ingenuity leads the way in combating COVID-19

As a public, land grant institution committed to solving world problems, faculty and staff at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln have rallied to lend their expertise in science, public health, community education, workforce tracking and more disciplines to meet the chaotic new world the novel coronavirus has created.



Biological Process Development Facility

While 2020 left its indelible mark on history, Nebraska scientists are putting their minds to work on developing vaccines and other testing advancements. In partnership with Vault Pharma headquartered at UCLA, the College of Engineering's Biological Process Development Facility is working on a vaccine with a specialized, genetically modified structure to treat patients who test positive for the novel coronavirus. UNL chemist David Hage also joined a nationwide team with ni2o Inc. to develop a fast-acting antibody test.

In August, the Office of Research and Economic Development awarded 20 research teams \$635,000 to support short-term activities in response to COVID-19. Among the 15 departments represented, UNL virologist Shi-Hua Xiang received funding to advance his early-stage research on a nasal spray delivery system for the COVID-19 vaccine.

Nebraska researchers have also lent their expertise to examine best practices in business management and vaccine distribution. As schools and business closed, Özgür Araz, associate professor of supply chain management and analytics, used predictive analytics to identify the most cost-effective decisions for public health measures.

As a doctoral student, Liang (Leon) Xu, assistant professor of supply chain management and analytics, pivoted his research track in pharmaceutical distribution when his former adviser was diagnosed with cancer. With global distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine soon available, the significance of his research today looms large as he works to identify a new mechanism to fast-track FDA approval.



Liang Xu and Özgür Araz



In today's digital world, Nebraska's research on communications also played a critical national role. Students, faculty and alumni from the College of Journalism and Mass Communications joined The New York Times' round-the-clock efforts to update case numbers across the U.S. Theresa Catalano, associate professor in the Department of Teaching, Learning and Teacher Education, also pulled in graduate students to support her research on how racially-charged government discourse might impact violence directed towards Asians.

As the world looks towards the future, Bob Wilhelm, vice chancellor for research and economic development, says Nebraska is ready: "University of Nebraska-Lincoln scholars [will meet] those challenges head on."

Program fosters virtual exchange with Egypt

This summer, Nebraska overcame travel restrictions and a global pandemic to offer a cultural exchange to 30 Egyptian students through virtual programming.

Spearheaded by the Office of Global Strategies, the Cultural, Professional and Academic Virtual Exchange (CPAVE) Program helped Egyptian students prepare for their future career and experience American culture through online summer courses, virtual social events with Nebraska students and an entrepreneurship pitch competition in Spring 2021. The program is a special opportunity funded by USAID and AMIDEAST Egypt to provide U.S.-Egypt Higher Education Initiative students an alternative to a traditional study abroad experience.

For the past three years, Global Strategies and Education Abroad have partnered to provide exchange programs for Egyptian students and to send Nebraska students to the MENA region on AMIDEAST study abroad programs. The CPAVE Program represents a continued dedication in the region with a key international partner:

“This program with AMIDEAST is exactly the kind of expanded global engagement Nebraska hopes to build in alignment with Aim 4 of the N2025 Strategic Plan,” said Josh Davis, associate vice chancellor for global affairs.

The CPAVE Program also pulled in expertise of the College of Business’s Center for Entrepreneurship to prepare students for careers as the world adjusts to a global pandemic. During Nebraska’s second five-week summer session, the Egyptians took two courses — one related to their field of study, and the other a special version of Entrepreneurship 423: Business Plan Development and Decision Making.

“My biggest hope is that students realize that they feel empowered to solve problems wherever they are in the world and that they can use the process and collect the resources to do so,” said Samuel Nelson, director of the Center.

“The CPAVE program is a unique opportunity to learn more about the culture and new ways of learning. For me, it was like an inspiration to my career goal.”

—Egyptian student Rehab Mahmoud Hassan

Nelson also hopes students take the basic understanding of what he calls the “tool set of change” and use it to support their business endeavors wherever they are in the world, which has already inspired some students.

The success of the CPAVE Program is just one example of how Nebraska’s academic units are collaborating to find new funding sources and expand campus internationalization, especially given how closely aligned global engagement and entrepreneurship are in today’s world.



Over the summer, Egyptian student Merna Elawadly enrolled in two virtual exchange courses in computer science and entrepreneurship at Nebraska through the CPAVE Program.



MOVING FORWARD

As we move into the next phase of the *Forward Together* global strategy and into 2021, we are more committed than ever to expand our global reach and impact for the benefit of our Husker community, the state of Nebraska and the entire world.



TOGETHER



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