



OFFICE OF
GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The background of the page is a watercolor-style illustration. On the left side, there is a vertical band of warm colors including yellow, orange, and red. The rest of the page is filled with a light blue and green watercolor wash that forms a faint world map. The text is overlaid on this background.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Associate Vice Chancellor’s Message	3
Mission and Vision	4
International Students	5
Other Events	8
Global Learning Opportunities	9
Programs	11
Partnerships	13
Support Services	16
Other Activities	17
Staff	18

ASSOCIATE VICE CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE



We have seen many changes in the Office of Global Engagement since my time here. UNMC has increased the number of international students, developed new partnerships and expanded our global activities.

Our most important goal is to ensure the success of our international students while they are at UNMC and beyond. The Office of Global Engagement staff helps our international students have meaningful experiences while they are here. Students are always welcome to come to our office located in the Williams Science Hall, second floor, 2.0.100 or email us at global@unmc.edu.

I am pleased to report that there was a record number of 108 visa-sponsored new international students to UNMC in 2023. This was very exciting for our office, as I hope it was for all UNMC. In-person international student orientation was held, along with pre-arrival sessions, trips to the Social Security Administration and cultural events to assist our new international students with their transition to UNMC.

We have expanded our partnerships to new countries with the assistance of UNMC employees and students. Our many thanks to you for helping UNMC promote international inclusiveness, foster global understanding and awareness, and advance internationalization efforts throughout the UNMC community.

In this 2023 report, you will see only a portion of what makes up the Office of Global Engagement. You will read about our international students and their activities, partnerships, global learning opportunities and student support services to name a few.

Thank you for your continued support of the Office of Global Engagement as we diligently work to provide excellence to our international students, visitors and UNMC campus.

Sincerely,

Jane L. Meza, PhD

Associate Vice Chancellor for Global Engagement

Mission

The Office of Global Engagement (OGE) promotes global understanding and awareness, and advances internationalization efforts throughout the UNMC community.

Vision

Our vision is comprehensive global engagement for Nebraska and beyond, advancing UNMC's world-class education, cutting-edge research, and renowned public service to meet the complex challenges of today's interconnected world.

OGE is committed to providing the UNMC community with high-quality opportunities to enrich and expand its experiences with the people, cultures, and contemporary concerns with all regions of the world. The Office of Global Engagement is responsible for:

- Providing support to and advocating for the university's international community including students, employees and scholars;
- Facilitating and coordinating inclusive opportunities for global learning experiences;
- Coordinating bilateral exchange programs for health science rotations and research with UNMC's global partners;
- Developing and managing observership and training programs;
- Managing the US immigration and visa sponsorships of international students, faculty, staff, and visitors on behalf of UNMC;
- Collaborating with UNMC departments to ensure compliance with UNMC policies including compliance training, immunizations, and export control;
- Developing and maintaining academic collaborations and business partnerships;
- Developing capacity in the healthcare sector;
- Bolstering economic development in Nebraska and the world;
- Coordinating various international and cultural engagement opportunities.

Jane Meza, PhD, associate vice chancellor for global engagement, welcomes the new international students to UNMC.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORIENTATION

UNMC welcomed 108 new international students in 2023. These students represent 22 countries and are from 41 academic health sciences programs across all colleges.

Jane Meza, PhD, associate vice chancellor for global engagement, welcomed the students at both orientation sessions. The core of the International Student Orientation (ISO) consists of formal presentations on variety of topics.

An integral part of the ISO is the popular international student ambassador program, which has been offered for the past decade. UNMC students volunteer to serve as ambassadors and are matched with incoming students. The purpose of this program is for the ambassadors to help the incoming students have a successful transition to UNMC.

Following the structured spring and fall sessions, the office of global engagement (OGE) organized trips for the new students to the Henry Doorly Zoo and the Nebraska

Crossing Outlet Mall. In addition, OGE hosted an International Student Welcome Lunch and Ambassador Appreciation.



108 new international students



Representing **22** countries



From **41** academic health sciences programs

UNMC employees, students and friends enjoyed the Holi event held on campus in April.



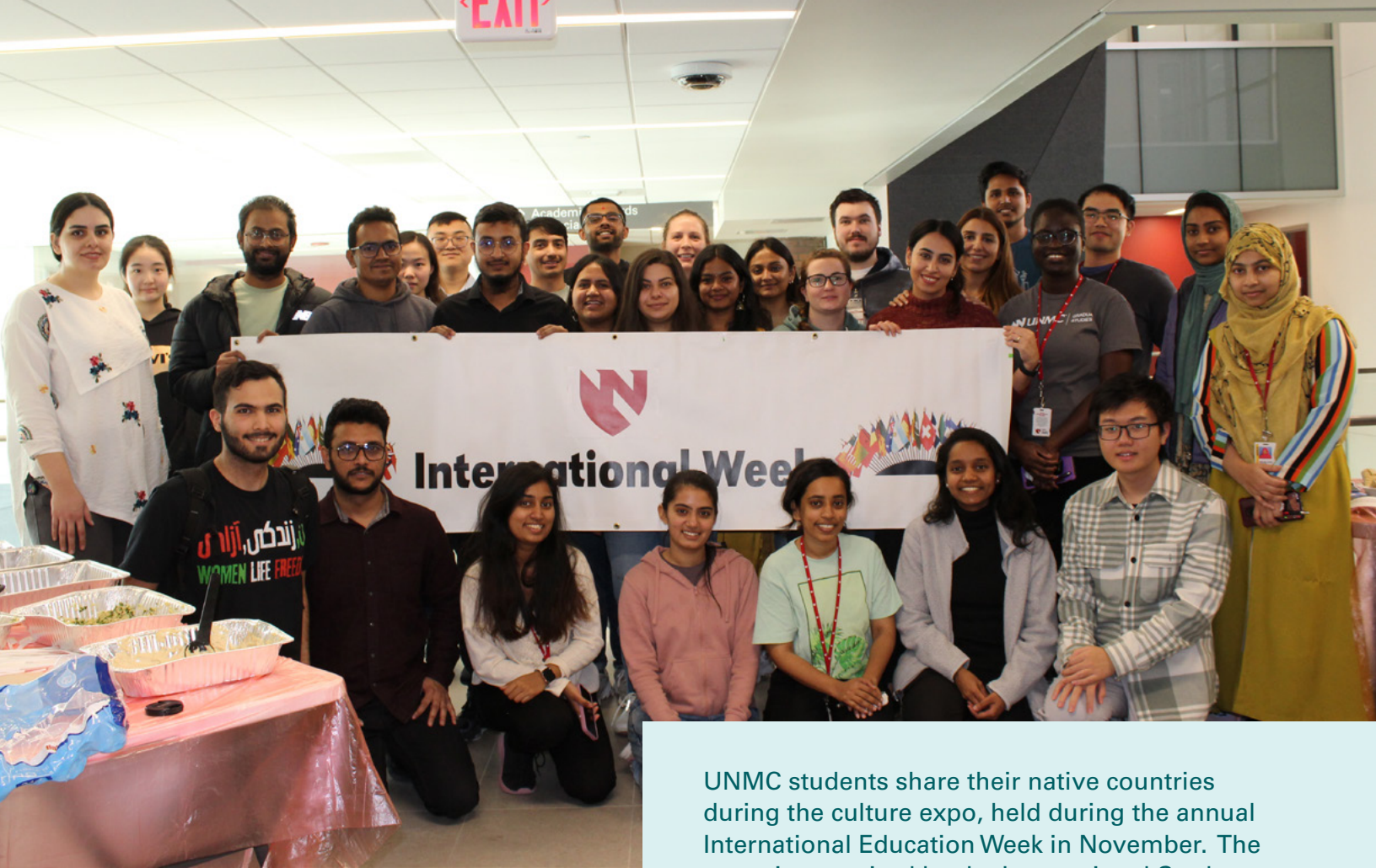
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

OGE continues to support the International Student Association (ISA). In April, ISA hosted the traditional Holi, a festival of colors event, and an Iftar potluck. Kicking off the International

Education Week festivities, held Nov. 12-18, was the Diwali festival of lights celebration, followed by an alumni panel discussion, study abroad presentation, ping-pong and badminton tournaments, a cultural expo and international-themed bingo. These events were open to all UNMC students, staff and faculty.

UNMC students, staff, faculty and friends celebrated Dwali, the festival of lights, which was held in November. Diwali featured crafts, singing, dancing and Indian food.





UNMC students share their native countries during the culture expo, held during the annual International Education Week in November. The event is organized by the International Student Association in collaboration with the Office of Global Engagement.



Students enjoy lunch during the International Student Welcome Lunch and Ambassador Appreciation.

OTHER EVENTS



CELEBRATE CULTURE

More than 200 UNMC and Nebraska Medicine community members celebrated the Lunar New Year at Celebrate Culture, which was held Feb. 10.

The first 200 attendees received satin gift bags filled with snacks from East Asian countries. Interactive tables from Asian countries included calligraphy, knot making, origami and red envelope making.

Celebrate Culture was coordinated by the Asia and American Pacific Islander Student Association, Asia and American Pacific Islander Employee Resource Group, UNMC Chinese Students and Scholars Association and the UNMC Office of Global Engagement.

"This event was started 11 years ago," Jane Meza, PhD, associate vice chancellor for global engagement said. "We see this event as an opportunity to create awareness of different cultures and celebrate the Lunar New Year."

- A. Chinese calligraphy is one of the most popular interactive tables.
- B. Jane Meza, PhD., associate vice chancellor for global engagement, celebrates the Lunar Year, the Year of the Rabbit.
- C. Making red envelopes was one of several interactive tables offered at the Celebrate Culture event.



Education Abroad

In 2023, eight UNMC students participated in the education abroad programs. Students visited countries including Brazil, Canada, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Israel, Mexico and Sierra Leone.

2023 Education Abroad Students

College of Allied Health Professions Student, Canada

Participated in a forensics science physician assistant rotation in Toronto, Canada

College of Public Health Student (Chambers Scholar), Ghana

Conducted hookworm research in Ghana, working with the Noguchi Medical Research Institute.

College of Public Health Student, Ethiopia

Conducted research that was part of a larger trial funded by NIH related to detecting *S. haematobium* infection in children, directed by Dr. Abraham Mengist, UNMC Professor

College of Medicine Student, India

Participated in a clinical rotation at the Basavatarakam Indo-American Cancer Hospital and Research Institute in Hyderabad, India

College of Medicine Student, Sierra Leone

Participated in an ophthalmology clinical elective at the Lowell & Ruth United Methodist Eye Hospital in Freetown, Sierra Leone

College of Medicine Student, Mexico

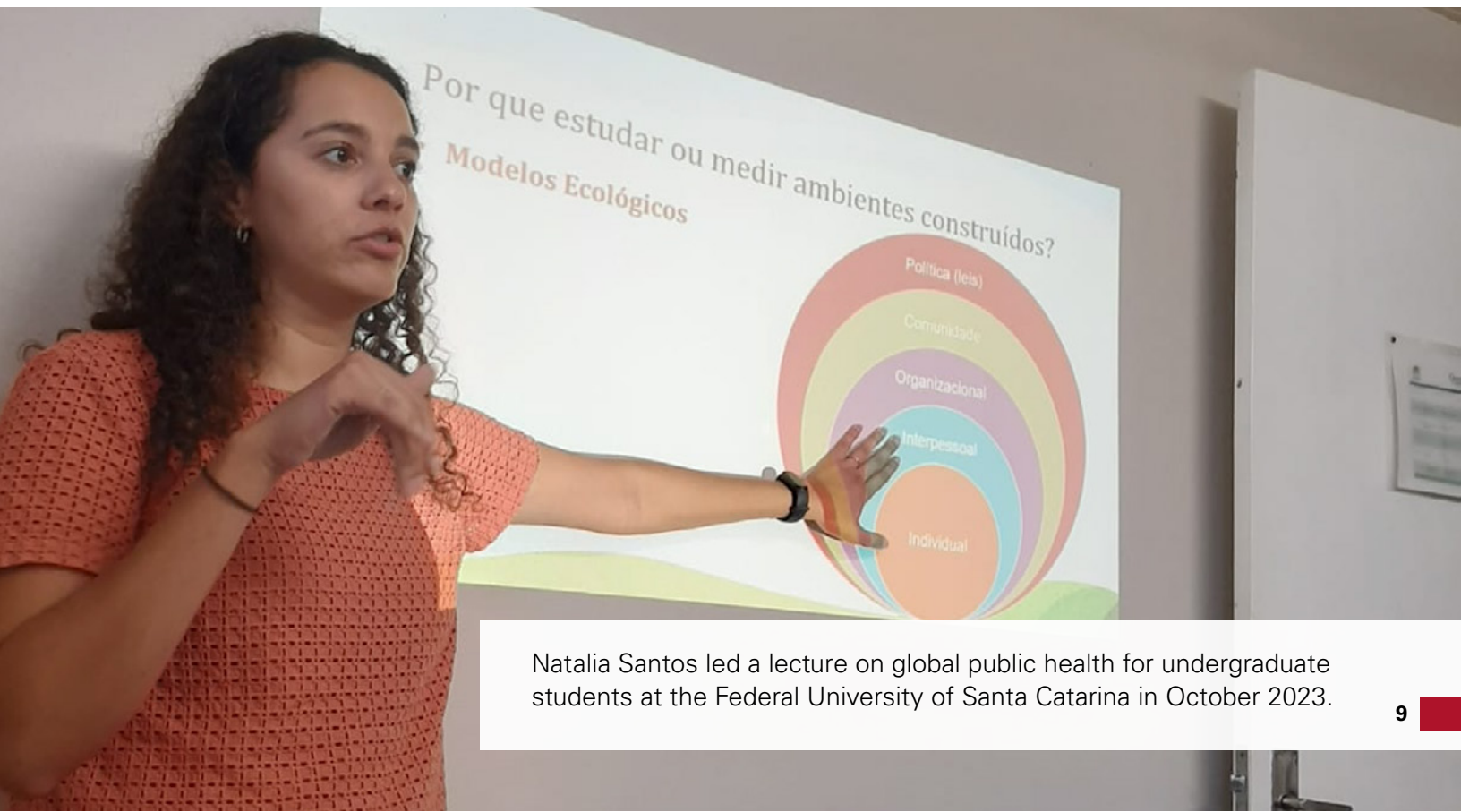
Participated in a three-week intensive Spanish program and one week of clinical experience, both in Xalapa, Mexico

College of Public Health Student (Chambers Scholar), Brazil

Conducted a research project at the Campus Universitario Reitor Joao David Ferreira Lima Trindade in Florianopolis-SC, Brazil

College of Medicine Student, Israel

Participated in an emergency medicine clinical elective at the Galilee Medical Center in Nahariya, Israel



Natalia Santos led a lecture on global public health for undergraduate students at the Federal University of Santa Catarina in October 2023.

Student Association for Global Health (SAGH) service trip

“The ability to positively influence and give back to my community, as well as help them (residents of Mexico) learn about the resources available and improve care management, is what motivated me to embark on this service trip,” said Mitsy Dasa, nursing student, Class of 2024. Dasa is referring to the Student Association for Global Health (SAGH) service trip in which three nursing students participated in a one-week service trip to Orizaba and Cordoba, Veracruz, Mexico through UNMC’s partner Universidad de Anahuac Veracruz (UAV) Medical School.

Three UNMC nursing students had the opportunity to visit various care settings in Veracruz to experience healthcare delivery in another country. The students went to a government clinic that served as a primary care/preventative care. This clinic offered nutrition counseling, vaccines, vision screening, PT/OT consultations, MRIs, general checkups and an emergency room. The students also went to a public hospital where they toured all the units including pediatrics, labor and delivery, NICU, adult ICU, emergency room and the operating room. After the tour, the students did 2-hour rotations in each unit to shadow and learn more about the Mexican inpatient health delivery system.

One of the major activities was the health fair at one of the elementary schools, which was sponsored by (UAV). The UNMC students had a booth with supplies they took to Mexico and demonstrated to the children and their parents how to properly brush their teeth.

“My favorite part of this service trip was being out in the community and interacting with the children and families. It was so fun to be providing donations for these families in need and seeing the children’s excitement was very heartwarming,” Isabella Almanza said. “I also really loved staying with my host family and made amazing friends with the students at Anahuac, it is a very special bond, and I am still very close with the medical students involved in the service trip.”

“What I like the most about this trip is the friendships I made and the small impact we made with the patients we cared for at the hospital and at the health fair. The University of Anahuac students made us feel at home,” Dasa said. “The



Isabella Almanza with students and parents from Jardin de Ninos Health Fair. UNMC had its own booth, and the UNMC nursing students demonstrated to the children and their parents how to properly brush their teeth.



The three UNMC students in red participated on this service trip. From left to right, Mitsy Das, Nicole Hollander and Isabella Almanza. In white, the University of Anahuac medical students from left to right, Fernanda, Doris, Natalia and Jessica.

university had a lot planned for us to see at the hospitals, communities, as well as sightseeing activities around the cities. We were able to learn so much about Mexico’s healthcare from the places we went to and got to make long lasting friendships.

“Overall, had a wonderful experience there and would encourage everyone to apply.”



Three Ukraine visitors and Former Senator Ben Nelson (third from the left).



UNMC Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, MD, met with a visiting delegation from Ukraine during the group's visit to UNMC in November.

Ben Nelson Fellows

Six Ukrainian health care professionals spent time at UNMC in November 2023 as UNMC continues to build its relationship with the country.

Nina Tronenko, a clinical psychologist who works with psychological rehabilitation of war veterans, said the visit gave the delegation a different angle to look at the world. Tronenko described the med center's attitude as humane and focused on positive values, support and protection.

Through its history of hosting international delegations, UNMC offers a way to share information about its educational and research programs, said Jane Meza, PhD, associate vice chancellor for global engagement.

"We learned so much from them, and I know that they've learned a lot from us, and that's really the value of doing this," Dr. Meza said. "It's been heartbreaking to hear their stories and to learn how much they work and dedicate their own volunteer time to their country."

In November, the newest Ukrainian delegation visited Washington D.C. and Nebraska through the Congressional Office for International Leadership and its Senator Ben Nelson Fellows program, which recognizes the former U.S. senator from Nebraska. The delegates are chosen as rising leaders in the medical field in Ukraine.

Since 2013, UNMC has been hosting Ben Nelson Fellows through Congressional Office for International Leadership.

The group met with Dean Khan, visited the emergency department at Nebraska Medical Center and toured the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center. At the Davis Global Center, the delegation saw the Training, Simulation and Quarantine Center and the National Quarantine Unit, watched a training exercise by the Nebraska Biocontainment Unit and saw medical simulation spaces with the iEXCEL program.

Oleksandr Chamorsov, chief psychologist for the Hotline Support Service with the Ministry of Veterans Affairs of Ukraine, said the attitude of the state and society towards veterans and military personnel is impressive, noting that veterans are actively involved in the public sector.

Natalia Chuzhykova, a volunteer who is attached to a brigade with the Ukraine Air Defense Forces, said "I have gained a lot of information here that I will be able to convey to Ukraine, and I believe that it will have an impact on the development of our country."



SEED PROGRAM

Through the College of Allied Health Professions, international students have an opportunity to develop a global perspective on rehabilitation and to learn about physical therapy in the U.S. in the UNMC Global Health Opportunity Program for Summer Experiential Education in Physical Therapy (SEED). This Sixth Annual SEED Program was held virtually from July 10-28, 2023 with 12 attendees.

The online summer program includes self-study sessions, online lectures, live discussions, virtual student roundtables, and campus and program presentations.

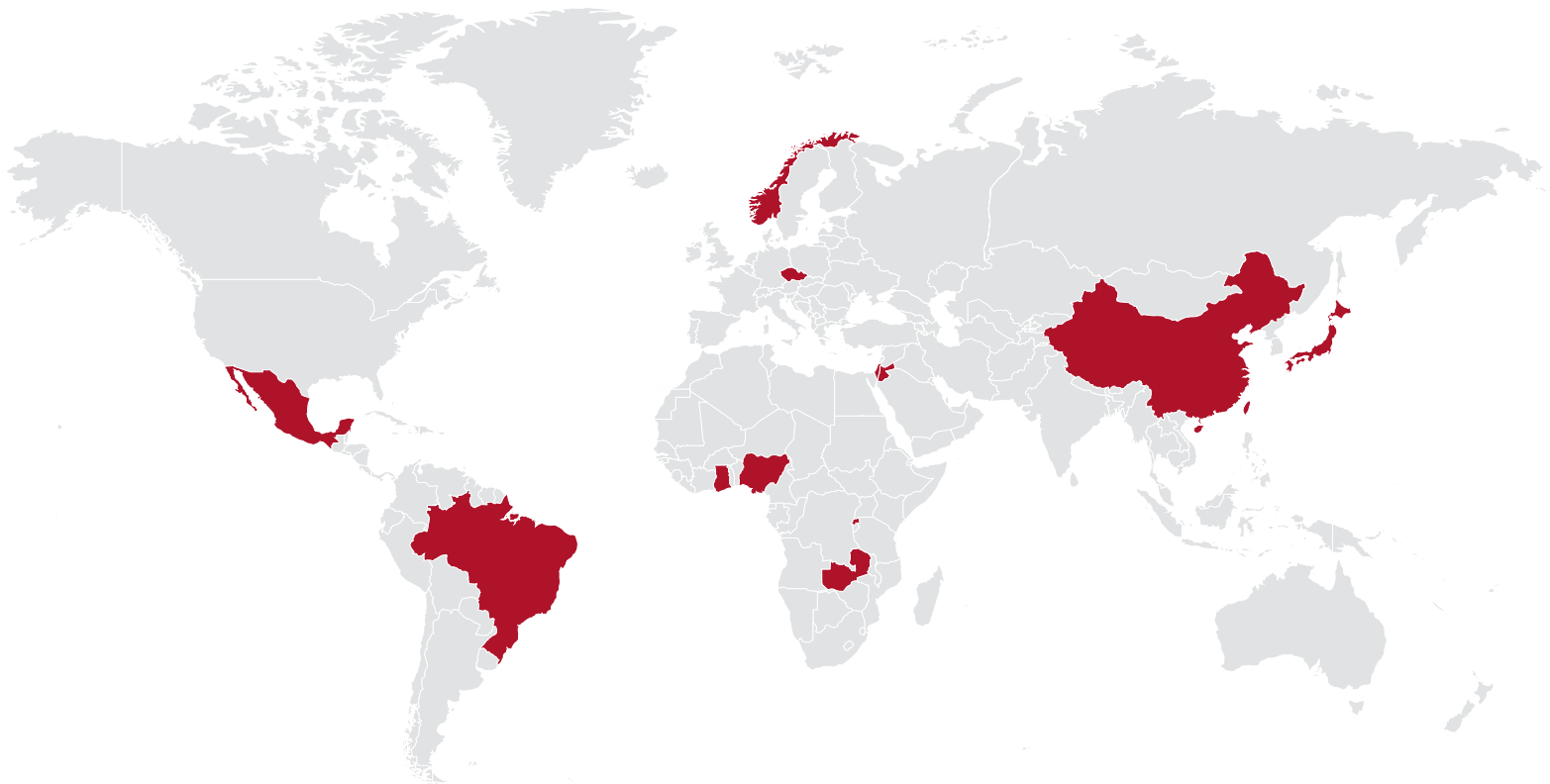
Ka-Chun “Joseph” Siu, PhD, professor and director of the global health opportunity program in the division of physical therapy, leads the UNMC Summer Experiential Education (SEED) in physical therapy program. Here Dr. Siu (left) meets with three students from Chang Guang University in Taiwan who participated in the 2023 program.



In 2023, UNMC had 48 active or pending international agreements for education, research and business collaborations in 21 countries. Fifteen new or renewal agreements were signed with partners in Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Panama, Rwanda, Sudan, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

The office of global engagement partnership activities include reviewing and documenting all international agreements, strengthening relationships with existing partners and developing new strategic partnerships.

2023 active or pending partnership agreements by country



Leadership delegation from the University of Anahuac in Cordoba, Veracruz, Mexico with the hosts from UNMC.



These UNMC partners visited campus in 2023 to discuss expanding our collaborations.

- **Universidad de Anahuac Veracruz (UAV), Mexico** - The strategic partnership with UAV was initiated in 2016 when the initial Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was created between UAV and the UNMC College of Public Health. The first activity was the offering of a hybrid course, involving both UAV and UNMC students together, focusing on the principles of public health. Since that time, the program has expanded to include medical Spanish and service-learning exchange programs directed by the UNMC Department of Family Medicine. Upon expiration of the original MOU, it was amended and restated in 2021 to reaffirm our joint commitments to the partnership and to establish a platform for an expanded range of collaborative activities. Reflecting on the success of these initial programs, both institutions expressed the desire to explore and expand the partnership into new areas that would benefit our students, faculty, and the communities we serve.

The purpose of the 2023 leadership visit was to celebrate the partnership's success and, most importantly, to explore other areas of mutual interest. A specific outcome was the development of specific timelines and action steps for the implementation of priority activities.



University of Anahuac Chancellor Luis Linares uses the interactive wall in the Davis Global Center.

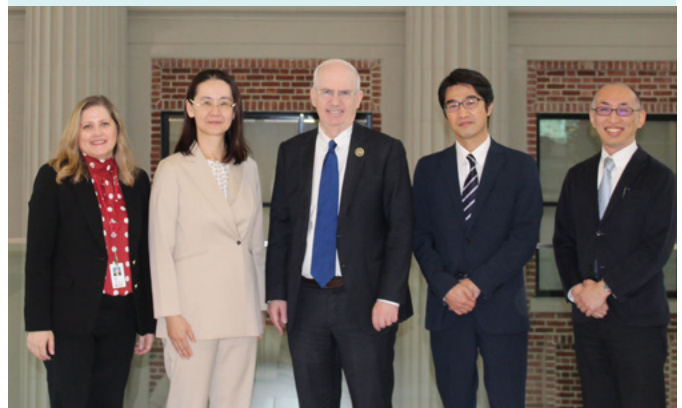


The delegation of Ministry of Health in Uzbekistan with UNMC leadership.

- Hamamatsu University School of Medicine (HUSM), Japan** - This partnership can be traced back to October 2019 when UNMC Chancellor Jeffrey Gold, MD and Jane Meza, PhD, associate vice chancellor for global engagement, visited HUSM. This visit laid the groundwork for what was to become a fruitful collaboration between the two institutions. Following this initial encounter, discussions continued, leading to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in June 2020. In October 2023, a delegation from HUSM visited UNMC, further strengthening ties between the institutions. Currently, efforts are underway to renew the MOU.
- Kawakita Medical Foundation, Japan** – This delegation visited UNMC to explore how to build a network between primary care and hospitals, how to use electronic health records and how to collaborate with doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals. They also toured the Buffett Cancer Center and the Davis Global Center.
- Ministry of Health, Uzbekistan** - The Minister of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan and 10 other delegation members from the Ministry of Health visited UNMC in May and June to meet with various college deans and others to discuss possible collaborations.



Ben Stobbe, assistant vice chancellor, iEXCEL, shows a delegation from Kawakita Medical Foundation in Japan how to use the interactive wall in iEXCEL.



Hamamatsu University Medical School delegation members with Jane Meza, PhD, associate vice chancellor for global engagement (left) and Jeffrey Gold, MD, chancellor, (third from the left).

International Visitors

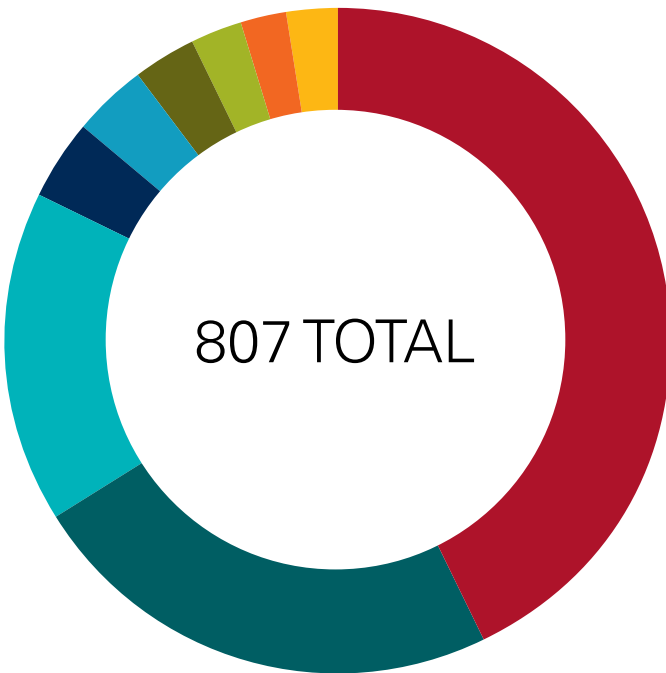
The International Visitor Program, initiated in 2013, is utilized by campus units to bring visitors to UNMC for engagements ranging from a few hours up to one year. The program insures the visitors meet UNMC requirements, such as immunizations, compliance training modules, in addition to UNMC Export Control requirements. In 2023, OGE registered 117 international visitors representing 27 countries.

Tax Preparation Assistance

OGE offered free virtual and in-person tax preparation assistance to the UNMC international community in 2021, with 238 individuals participating.

Visa Sponsorship

OGE assisted and sponsored 807 international students, employees and visitors representing 70 countries to work, study or visit UNMC in 2023. OGE staff advised faculty, staff, sponsored employees and students on all visa and immigration-related issues. OGE also provided advice to UNMC departments and international employees regarding the process and regulations for sponsorship of permanent residence. Services were also offered to the University of Nebraska Omaha to prepare government petitions to sponsor international employees to work there.



International Students, Employees and Visitors by Country, 2023

India		347
Other		188
China		129
Bangladesh		31
Nigeria		30
Iran		24
South Korea		21
Brazil		19
Nepal		18



"Purity of Soul" by Devashri Gandhi is the grand prize winner of the Third Annual International Photo Contest.

Third Annual International Photo Contest

The office of global engagement held its Third Annual International Photo Contest in March. OGE invited participants to submit up to three of their favorite travel photos in the areas of cityscapes/ architecture, landscapes/nature, people/animals for the contest. The goal was to have the photos inspire adventure and cultural awareness. An anonymous panel judged the images based on originality and creativity, photographic quality, and communication of culture and place.

The contest had 9 faculty/staff and 13 student/resident participants, with a total of 60 photos submitted. The OGE awarded a grand prize and prizes for the top three entrants in both the student/resident and faculty/staff divisions.

OUR STAFF



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The OGE has continued to create two digital newsletters to keep our colleagues and partners updated on our international activities. The Global Glance is a monthly bulletin that relays technical information, deadlines and other pertinent information and opportunities. Global Connections is a quarterly newsletter that contains campus-wide stories of events and accomplishments. To receive these digital publications, or read past issues, please go here: <https://www.unmc.edu/global/news-events/index.html>



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