Note from our Executive Director

GEO was bustling this past spring with the final planning for the International Association for College Admission Counseling conference, which finally came to our campus in July 2022 after a two-year delay. We successfully hosted over 1100 in-person participants from over 80 countries, thanks to the collaboration, coordination and hard work of the entire GEO team and partners across our university.

Continuing to make the adjustment from a virtual back to an in-person service model also required creative thought and quite a bit of administrative tweaking. By fall 2022 we were ready to come together through a variety of activities and program offerings that had been modified or paused during the pandemic. We successfully kicked off the fall semester with our Welcome Picnic at the Duck Pond, followed by on-campus orientations, workshops, country dinners with a record number of attendees, and week-long series of interactive events during International Education Week!

The past year also presented many challenges, including when tragedy struck our Muslim community with the murder of Muhammad Afzaal Hussain, a well known and beloved UNM alumnus. This and other senseless killings sent shock waves through our Middle Eastern and international student communities and put everyone on edge. During this painful time, I was moved by the collective show of support from stakeholders across our campus and the larger Albuquerque community, who worked proactively with local authorities to address safety concerns and enhance security for our campus and surrounding areas. GEO partnered with the newly established Asian American Pacific Islander Resource Center to create a space for reflection and grieving and to empower students to express their fear and concerns. Our campus community showed up and pulled together in meaningful ways. Through a generous donation from one of our regents, UNM established a memorial scholarship that will support future international students from the Middle East who come to study at UNM.

With global mobility reopening GEO hosted a series of academic and administrative partners from Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Hungary, Japan, and Peru. These visits allowed us to renew and strengthen our institutional partnerships and generate new opportunities for bi-lateral programming. We launched the first edition of our quarterly global newsletter to keep our network of collaborators and friends current on the various initiatives and updates happening at UNM. Be sure to subscribe to stay up to date on what the GEO team is up to!

I want to thank all of the units, departments, community partners and international collaborators that contributed to a successful year. As we enter 2023, we look forward to building on the momentum from the past year!

Dr. Nicole Tami
Executive Director, Global Education Initiatives
Highlights

Developing Resilient Communities & Workforce Capacity in the ‘Hot Deserts’ of North America
In partnership with Universidad de Sonora (UNISON) and Instituto Tecnológico de Hermosillo (ITH) in Sonora, Mexico, UNM hosted a week-long program facilitated by funding from the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund. Faculty and students from the two Mexican institutions joined their UNM counterparts from the Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering to address critical social problems within our region in the areas of sustainability and natural environments.

Friends of Fulbright Argentina
We hosted a cohort of 10 high-achieving guest students from Argentina for a six-week program in Spring 2022. At the completion of the program, 100% of the students reported that their overall experience at UNM exceeded their expectations, and that they would recommend UNM to other students wanting to study in the United States.

The Institute for Community Identity & Leadership
For the seventh year, UNM was competitively selected to host this innovative program, sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City and the Association of Higher Education Institutions (ANUIES). In summer 2022, we welcomed 29 indigenous student leaders from Mexico for a two-week in-person program at our main campus accelerated by three weeks of online and in-person pre-departure programming.

Passport Center

In 2022, the UNM Passport Acceptance Center generated $126,490 in new revenue, which allowed us to allocate $20,000 towards the GEO Passport to Success Scholarship and fund staff development.

Of the 1,728 customers who completed an online survey, 99.8% expressed satisfaction with the service they experienced at our Passport Center.

What our customers had to say...

“The staff was friendly and knowledgeable! I appreciated that she took the time to make sure I fully understood the directions since it’s my first passport.”

“Great customer service and a very helpful person. Quick and easy to get done.”

“I had such a positive experience getting my passport here. The person who helped me was super friendly. They can also take your passport picture for you!”

Stevens Initiative Virtual Exchange

Two UNM faculty implemented international virtual exchange courses under the Stevens Initiative “Connected Classrooms” program:

• Lei Yang, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, partnered with Radouan Boukharfane, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P) in Morocco, on hardware software co-design for emerging application in computational fluid dynamics in Spring 2022.

• Achraf Noureddine, Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering, partnered with Hania Mahassen, American University in Dubai, on discovering real life phenomena using simple calculus in Fall 2022.

In addition, two GEO staff members participated in a Stevens Initiative “Train the Trainers” program to help UNM develop a strategy for training more faculty in how to effectively redesign courses for international virtual collaboration. To launch this strategic effort, they co-facilitated an inaugural Virtual Teaching Symposium for Faculty in a hybrid format as part of International Education Week in November.
EDUCATION ABROAD

27 countries represented by CELAC students in 2022

417 students studied abroad during 2022 participating in various short-term, semester, year-long, and faculty led programs

Top 5 Study Abroad Destinations of 2022

- Croatia
- Spain
- Italy
- United Kingdom
- Mexico

Center for English Language & American Culture

Highlights
- Served 127 English language students
- 26 people participated in our Community Course
- Hosted 79 special short-term program students from Mexico, both online and in-person
- Continued concurrent classroom model with simultaneous online and in-person teaching
- Partnership and recruitment efforts included in-person outreach in Austria and Hungary

What our participants had to say...

“The discussion part of the class is the most interesting for me because it can improve my oral communication skills”

“I really loved to do my Listening Logs and Reading Logs, because the topics were very interesting for me. And, also, helped a lot to improve my English.”

“When the teacher gave us a feedback or when we have a question about something, his explanation was always useful.”

Highlights
- Ran 21 faculty led programs, including ten new programs
- Top 5 Exchange Programs included Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (Spain), University of Leeds (England), Ewha Womans University (South Korea), Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (Netherlands), and Heidelberg University (Germany)
- Hosted largest study abroad fair to date during Fall 2022, with nearly 50 tables on two levels in the SUB

Marina, Egypt
Britonya, Spain
Sophia, Ecuador
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND SCHOLAR SERVICES

Highlights

• Returned to in-person check-ins and orientations, while continuing virtual pre-arrival sessions. During spring we hosted 130 new students at our small group orientations, and 300 new students at our large group orientation in the fall.
• Revived in-person social events, including a series of international dinners that attracted over 400 total attendees!
• Organized 20+ integration events and 6 out of town trips for international students.
• Conducted 15 workshops with more than 500 total attendees, delivering sessions both virtually and in-person.
• Collaborated with campus partners to develop co-curricular and outreach programming—thanks to our friends at Alumni Relations, Career Services, Graduate Studies, University Libraries, Center for Teaching and Learning, Student Health and Counseling, Departmental Advisors, PNMGC, Men of Color Initiative, International Students Inc., and the Christian Student Center.
• Authorized more than 500 student work experiences
• Planned and facilitated five volunteer excursions in the Albuquerque community
• Welcomed and onboarded new professional staff and student workers
• 91% of students who attend workshops found them to be beneficial
• 70% of students rated that their semester went well

Programmatic highlights include Santa Fe field trip, Indian cultural night, end of semester game night, and in-person welcome picnic.

INTERNATIONAL ADMISSIONS & RECRUITMENT

Highlights

UNM hosted the International Association for College Admission Counseling conference in July 2022. International ACAC is the leading professional organization for university international admissions representatives and high school counselors from across the globe. We took full advantage of the opportunity to showcase and share New Mexico’s unique community and culture with people from around the world.

• The conference brought together over 1,100 people in-person and 350 online participants.
• 14,232 messages were exchanged on the virtual conference platform!

We saw a rebound in admission application numbers from international students both at the undergraduate and graduate levels. From a low in Fall 2020 of 1,260 applications to an increase in Fall 2022 of 2,149 total applications. This is a great indicator that the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are waning, allowing for renewed global mobility and a recovery of international student enrollment numbers at US universities!

In-person recruitment outreach began in earnest during the Fall semester. International admissions staff travelled for the first time in three years! IA&R staff continued to participate in virtual college fairs, offered virtual appointments, and conducted outreach to prospective students via various social media platforms.

We recruited in the following countries:

- Brazil
- Colombia
- Ecuador
- Ghana
- India
- Kenya
- Nigeria
- Peru
- South Africa

We recruited in the following countries:

70% increase in applications from 2020 to 2022
Financial Report

The Global Education Office has two primary sources of revenue consisting of our annual I&G allocation and profit generated from entrepreneurial initiatives, ranging from the Passport Acceptance Center to customized short-term program offerings, and a variety of customer service fees.

During fiscal year 2022, we began to see signs of recovery in terms of enrollment trends for international degree seeking students. Our intensive English language enrollment numbers and short-term program participation rates are unfortunately taking longer to recover. While restrictions on global mobility and the wait times for visa document issuance are improving, the residual impacts of the global pandemic continue to play a factor. The demand for passport services is on the rise, so our Passport Center had a productive year, but we have not yet reached pre-COVID customer service numbers.

The cost of doing business continues to rise, as supply costs and the jump in hourly salary rates put pressure on our budget. In spring 2022, The University of New Mexico committed to a much needed 7% base salary increase for all regular employees, which accounts for the bump in our base I&G allocation.

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Thanks to our team that makes it all possible!