



GLOBAL  
EDUCATION  
OFFICE

# Annual Report 2024

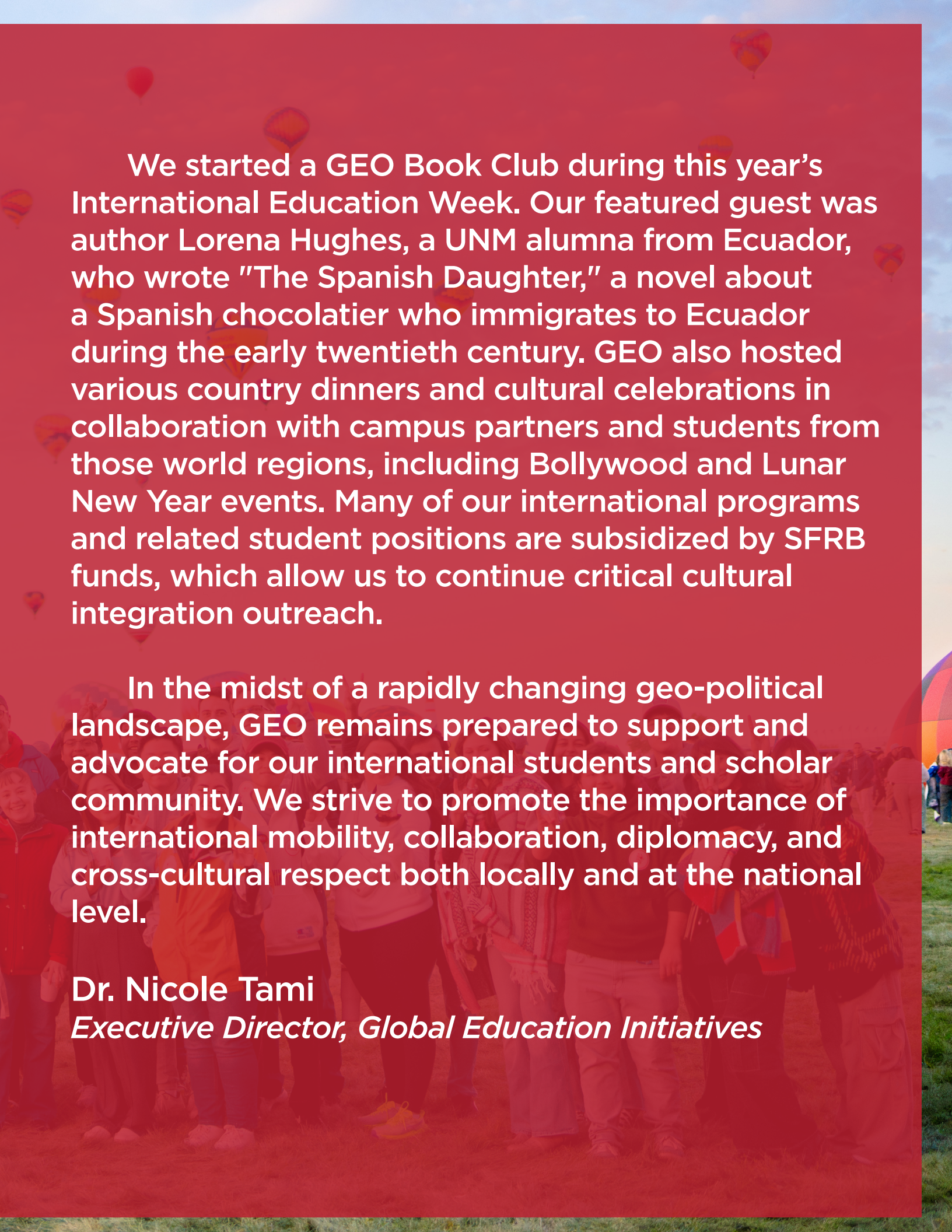
# Note from our Executive Director

In April 2024, GEO commemorated sixty years of international education services and programming at The University of New Mexico. According to the archives, we have been hosting students from abroad since the early 1940s. Since then, our international student community has grown steadily both in terms of the number of students we host and the number of home countries from which they come.



Nicole Tami with Stephanie McIver, PhD,  
Executive Director, Student Health and Counseling

During the last calendar year, we tracked over 2,500 sign-ins at the GEO Resource Center, which serves as the gateway to all our services. We welcomed new staff members across our sub-units, including Adam Kidd who is providing critical support to our small but mighty administrative team, and Molly Wright who has taken over our marketing and communication functions.



We started a GEO Book Club during this year's International Education Week. Our featured guest was author Lorena Hughes, a UNM alumna from Ecuador, who wrote "The Spanish Daughter," a novel about a Spanish chocolatier who immigrates to Ecuador during the early twentieth century. GEO also hosted various country dinners and cultural celebrations in collaboration with campus partners and students from those world regions, including Bollywood and Lunar New Year events. Many of our international programs and related student positions are subsidized by SFRB funds, which allow us to continue critical cultural integration outreach.

In the midst of a rapidly changing geo-political landscape, GEO remains prepared to support and advocate for our international students and scholar community. We strive to promote the importance of international mobility, collaboration, diplomacy, and cross-cultural respect both locally and at the national level.

**Dr. Nicole Tami**  
*Executive Director, Global Education Initiatives*

# Global Programs & International Collaborations

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Friends of Fulbright Argentina

In spring 2024, we hosted the 7th iteration of this immersive student visitor program sponsored by the U.S. Fulbright Commission in Buenos Aires. Since the program's inception in 2018, we've welcomed 88 participants from 26 universities across 17 provinces in Argentina.



**\$115,080**

*in new revenue was generated for UNM through our short-term international certificate programs.*

### UR Inspiration/Inspiración

UNM co-hosted this fully online, bilingual undergraduate research conference in collaboration with two other Research 1 Hispanic Serving Institutions, Florida International University and University of Arizona. Working closely with Fulbright Argentina and Universidad Nacional de Cuyo, participants learned how to seek out research opportunities, shared their research projects with peers, and received constructive feedback on their methods and delivery skills.

### Institute for Community Identity and Leadership

During the 8th iteration of the Institute, a cohort of 14 Mexican undergraduate students of indigenous origin took part in an immersive, month-long academic and cultural program. The program is fully funded through a collaboration with the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City, the Association of Higher Education Institutions in Mexico (ANUIES), and the United States-Mexico Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange (COMEXUS).



### Testimonial

*“Through the various experiences with people from other indigenous communities, I have felt proud of my identity.”*

# PASSPORT CENTER

In 2024, the UNM Passport Acceptance Center generated \$234,931 in new revenue. Out of this, \$20,000 was allocated towards the GEO Passport to Success Scholarship to fund graduate mobility.

Among the 3,474 passport customers that were served, we received a 99.9% overall customer satisfaction rating!



**Approximately 48% of our passport clients are UNM students, faculty, employees or alumni.**

## Testimonials

*“Amazing help. Best photo ever. Thank you for everything and putting my mind at ease with my application!”*

*“They honored our appointment time and got all four of us (including two small children) in and out quickly. It is GREAT to have this resource right on campus and that it works so very well.”*

*“She transformed what could have been a tedious, bureaucratic process into a delightful, seamless experience! What a pleasure our meeting was. I have already told many others that this was a positive (and then some) encounter.”*

## UNM Passport Center



Around 20% of our passport clients are UNM students, and about half of these students said they were interested in studying abroad.

# CENTER FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE & AMERICAN CULTURE

## HIGHLIGHTS



- Taught 73 students from 25 countries in our intensive English language program.
- Hosted 33 short-term program students from South Korea and Mexico. This included providing English instruction for the 8th iteration of the U.S. Embassy in Mexico's Community Identity and Leadership program.
- Partnered with the Menaul School to support international students with academic English instruction.
- Conducted partnership outreach in Hungary, South Korea, and Taiwan.
- Facilitated conversation groups, a film club, and the publication of the Student Voice virtual magazine.

**25**

*countries represented  
among CELAC  
students in 2024.*



CELAC students participated in extracurricular activities, including field trips to the Balloon Fiesta, Sandia Peak, El Morro National Monument, and Santa Fe.

## Testimonials

*"It was great to learn about the culture of New Mexico through various programs."*

*"The classes are good for me because now I'm speaking English fluently."*

*"I am so proud to be in the CELAC course. The program is amazing."*

# EDUCATION ABROAD & NATIONAL EXCHANGE

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Took over management of the National Student Exchange Program, formerly housed under the Dean of Students.
- Supported 26 faculty-led programs, including 6 new programs.
- Welcomed three new advisors: Ariel Blackshear-Tvrdy, Payton Broussard and Toni Corso.

UNM is ranked in the top 5 of all NSE member schools with:

- 44 students going outbound
- 5 incoming students

Created new educational opportunities for UNM students through various affiliation and exchange agreements at Yamanashi Gakuin University (Japan), Toyo University (Japan), University of West Indies (Antigua), The Université libre de Bruxelles (Belgium), and Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology (New Zealand).

# 420

*UNM students studied abroad during 2024, participating in a variety of short-term, semester/year-long, and faculty-led programs.*



Susan Perrone, Study Abroad Blog Scholarship Recipient, Chung Ang University, South Korea

## Top Outbound Study Abroad Destinations



Marissa Montoya, Study Abroad Blog Scholarship Recipient, University of Salamanca, Spain



Mexico



Italy



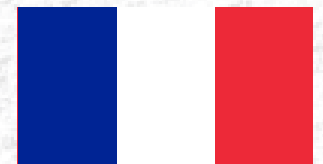
United Kingdom



Spain



South Korea



France

# INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND SCHOLAR SERVICES

## HIGHLIGHTS

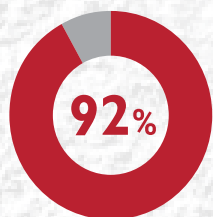
**450**  
*new students*

*Served more than 1500 continuing international students and scholars.*

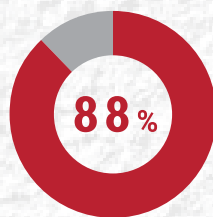
- Worked with International Students Inc. (ISI) to offer airport pick-up, furniture give-away, temporary homestays, and annual picnic.
- Hosted 18 workshops on cultural issues, work in the U.S., tax filing, and other trending topics.
- Authorized 500+ work opportunities!



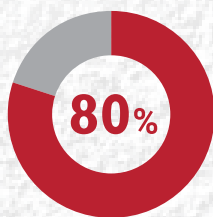
## Conducted a survey of services provided to international students.



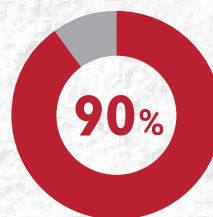
Found pre-arrival information helpful for their transition to UNM



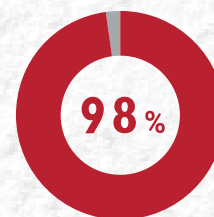
Found arrival packet materials helpful



Felt ISSS workshops were extremely useful



Reported positive experiences with GEO staff



Found the GEO academic success class very helpful



- Paired 200+ students through our Lobo Friend mentor program.
- Provided tax help to 500+ students and scholars.

- Hired two new permanent advisors, Fiore Bran-Aragon and Daniel Dickinson, and trained 5 new student employees: Sara Klalaf, Dang Loi Vo, Hyunseon Jang, Keimi Fugiwara, Jaime Castro Gautier.

## Culture Nights

*Hosted 6 culture events in collaboration with student groups from different world regions, celebrating Bollywood, Africa and Korea Nights, among other social events throughout the year.*



# INTERNATIONAL ADMISSIONS & RECRUITMENT

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Expanded domestic recruitment for prospective international transfer students already in the U.S.
- Revamped the AMIGO scholarship process to better inform recipients of award requirements and streamline appeal requests.
- Launched the International Admission & Recruitment “Lunch and Learn” workshop for academic department staff who work with international applicants across UNM. There were 45 attendees at our inaugural lunch training.
- Continued to work with educational contractors across the globe, and onboarded five new recruitment agents.
- Director Michael Voegerl completed his first year in the position and welcomed a new advisor, Lucas Delahunty, to the team.



In-person recruitment was conducted in: Vietnam, Jordan, Oman, Bahrain, UAE, Qatar, Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile

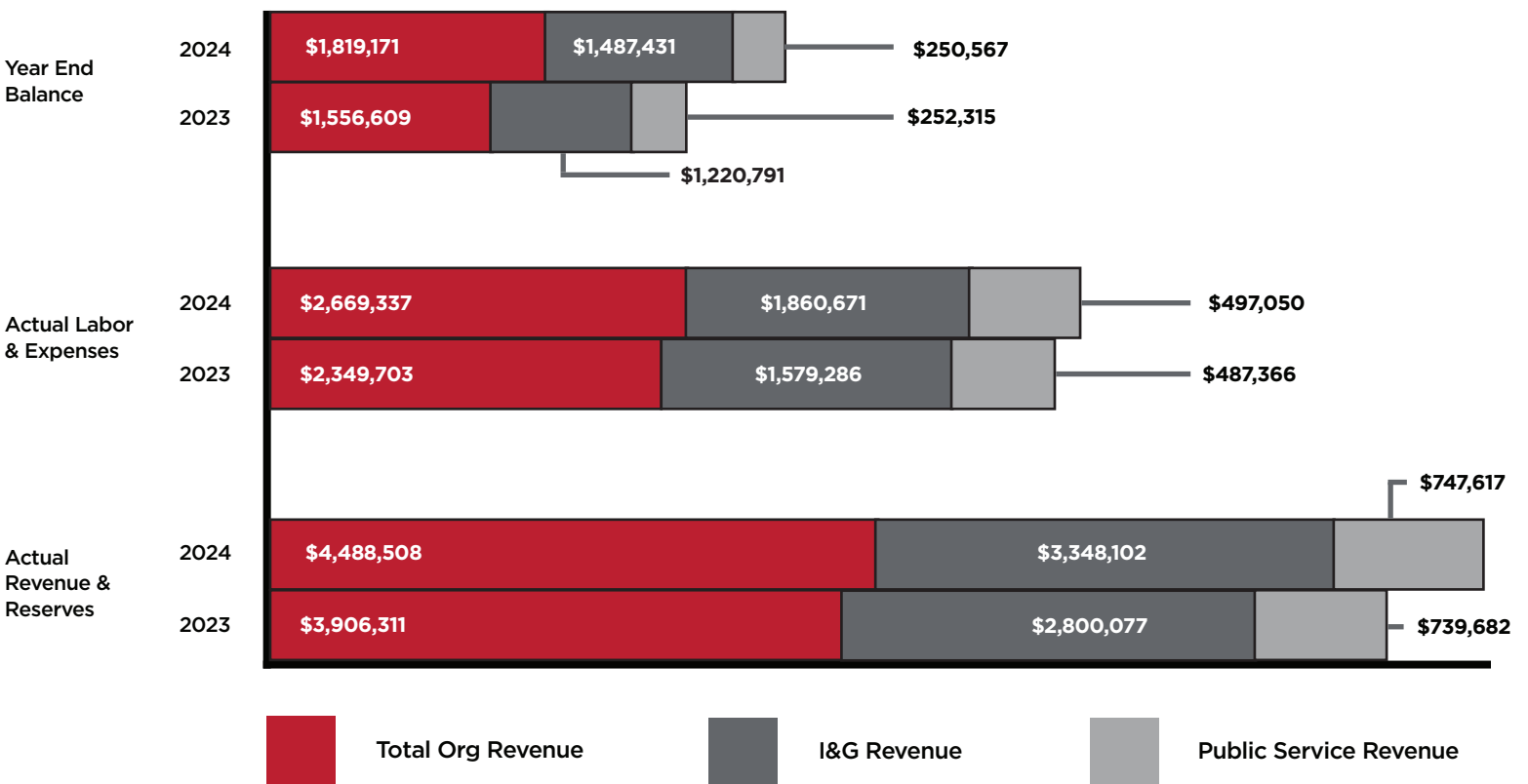


**Organized the 2nd annual Mini-World Cup soccer tournament as part of International Education Week!**

# 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, as well as a variety of customer service fees.

## FY23 and FY24 Revenue & Expenses



# CHANGE A LIFE, INVEST IN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

The Global Education Office (GEO) is dedicated to helping all UNM students reap the benefits of international education. Our office handles international admissions and recruitment, study abroad and faculty-led programs, targeted outreach for international students and scholars, English as a second language, and a passport acceptance facility on campus.

**Give through the  
UNM Foundation  
by scanning the  
QR code.**





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