

Annual Report 2025



GLOBAL
EDUCATION
OFFICE

Note from our Executive Director

Reflecting on 2025, I am immensely proud of the Global Education Office team for their collective empathy, tenacity, and generosity in supporting our international community during unprecedented times. The avalanche of presidential orders and proposed federal policy changes affecting visa status and vetting processes, H-1B fees, and a growing list of travel bans, made the year administratively intense and tumultuous for our students and scholars. In response to these administrative actions, other nations implemented stricter visa requirements and increased fees for American citizens applying to study and work in their countries, thus making the process more costly and complicated for our outbound education abroad students.

The rapidly shifting immigration landscape, coupled with sweeping changes to higher education funding, admissions criteria, and the dismantling of equity and inclusion initiatives, fostered a sense of vulnerability and uncertainty.

Our office partnered proactively with local and national advocacy groups to stay informed and ensure that our students, faculty, and campus leaders understood the implications and real-life impacts of these federal policy changes. Throw in an asbestos abatement and floor replacement that exiled staff from their offices for weeks during summer 2025, and I can safely say that we are relieved to welcome in a new year!

Despite ongoing challenges, we are committed to upholding our mission to promote international education, foster cross-cultural collaborations, and maintain global connections for students and faculty. Our Resource Center successfully attended to more than 3,400 in-person and virtual appointments and inquiries.

GEO partnered with local organizations, including Global Ties ABQ and Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation, to co-host the “Staying Engaged in a Divided World” conference at UNM. We networked with the recently formed New Mexico District Export Council, and universities across New Mexico, to raise awareness about the positive fiscal and academic contributions international students make to our state.

I was honored to participate in a meeting hosted by the newly branded Mexican Secretariat of Science, Humanities, Technology, and Innovation (SECIHTI) to discuss UNM’s research strength and opportunities for academic cooperation. As you’ll see from the following highlights, GEO had a productive and commendable year despite the upheaval at the federal level.

Dr. Nicole Tami
Executive Director, Global Education Initiatives



From LTR: Valerie Cardenas, Nicole Tami, Araceli Partearroyo, Angelica Careaga, Maria Mercedes Salmon, and Lisa Munro, networking at the SECIHTI meeting in Mexico City

EDUCATION ABROAD & NATIONAL EXCHANGE

HIGHLIGHTS

- UNM faculty Fulbright recipient, Dr. Julianne Newmark, facilitated a new academic partnership with Tampere University in Finland
- Established direct student enrollment agreements with New Zealand, Ireland, and multi-country program providers

★★★
UNM is ranked 3rd among National Student Exchange (NSE) member schools with:

- 30 outbound students
- 9 incoming students

★★★

Hosted visits from:

- University of East Anglia
- Consulate of Poland
- South Korean Consul General
- National administrators for the Boren Awards & Critical Language Scholarship



Eviana Lopez, Study Abroad Blog scholarship recipient, studied at the University of Stirling, U.K. & Scotland

419

UNM students studied abroad during 2025. This included 22 faculty-led programs, 9 of which were newly developed study away opportunities.



"Encuentros con el mundo hispano" Peru 2025

Top Outbound Study Abroad Destinations



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT & SCHOLAR SERVICES

HIGHLIGHTS

- Authorized 600+ work opportunities!
- Paired 280 students through our Lobo Friend mentorship program

547

new students and scholars

Served more than 1600 continuing international students and scholars.



Linda Melville, ISSS Director (far right) with student presenters at the IEW International Showcase



Of participants found social programming relevant

19

Workshops delivered on: New Mexican culture, working in the U.S., tax filing and other "how to" topics

8.8/10

Average attendee workshop rating

Culture Nights

Hosted 8 social events in collaboration with student groups from different world regions, celebrating Bollywood, Pakistan, and African nations, among other outreach events during the year.



Miguel Sabol, moderator for student panel at the "Staying Engaged in a Divided World" conference

INTERNATIONAL ADMISSIONS & RECRUITMENT

HIGHLIGHTS



We recruited international students near & far!

- Locally we partnered with CNM, Menaul School, and the new APS International School to create pathways to UNM for their international students
- Participated in community college transfer fairs, visited high schools, and attended college counselor events from Portland and Seattle to Vietnam
- Focused on joint graduate outreach efforts with Dr. William Gannon from Graduate Studies and Madeline Pennington from Anderson School of Management in India and Nepal
- Signed contracts with new educational agents in Vietnam, Kuwait, and India
- Conducted 14 virtual workshops—across multiple time zones—with educational agents and prospective students around the globe
- Supported the Graduate Application Migration for international applicants
- Director Michael Voegerl visited all four branch campuses to learn more about their international initiatives and capacity to host international students
- Hosted two Lunch & Learn sessions for 165 UNM advisors, admissions staff and faculty, focused on international student admission and immigration issues



Mary Phibbs (center), International Admissions and Recruitment Specialist, with university partners in India

CENTER FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE & AMERICAN CULTURE

HIGHLIGHTS



Xu Wang, CELAC student, sharing a dish from her home country

- Instructed 88 intensive English language students, maintaining stable ESL enrollment (1% increase)
- CELAC students participated in cultural field trips and joined conversation, film, and art clubs
- Director Dr. Paul Edmunds explored the creation of university partnerships and recruitment opportunities in Vietnam and conducted partner outreach in Taiwan, Japan, and Mexico
- Welcomed students from partner universities in Taiwan and South Korea for winter and summer short-term programs
- Dr. Lisa Munro, our Mexico-based representative, participated in numerous recruitment events including the COMEXUS Education Week and EnglishUSA - Mérida. She also developed a new tracking system to enhance outreach and institutional collaborations throughout Mexico



22

home countries
represented in 2025

Testimonials

"It was the first time in my life that someone taught me how to write an essay, and I really enjoyed it."

"If I don't understand something during class, I can ask questions at any time, and the teacher will stop and answer patiently."

Global Programs & International Collaborations

HIGHLIGHTS

English Immersion Camps

In collaboration with CELAC, we welcomed 32 students from four different universities in South Korea and Taiwan for three separate 4-week immersive English training camps. Participants completed 60 hours of English study and took part in cultural activities and field trips to learn about the history and culture of New Mexico.

Testimonials

"From the time we set out to the time we arrived here, we received a lot of help with our daily life, schoolwork, and outings. Everyone was very friendly, attentive, and patient."

"I gained a lot from being in an English environment, communicating closely, and studying in English. I was also impressed and loved the activities of visiting various scenic spots and experiencing the culture."



\$117,287
in new revenue was generated for UNM through our short-term international certificate programs

UR Inspiration/Inspiración

We co-hosted the fourth annual UR Inspiration/Inspiración Conference in collaboration with the University of Arizona, Florida International University, and Universidad Nacional de Cuyo in Argentina. This free bilingual (English and Spanish) online event provides undergraduate students with the opportunity to share their research with peers and receive feedback from experienced academic researchers.

Testimonials

"I had the chance to learn about excellent research being conducted by young scientists outside of my own area and perspective. It was inspiring and motivating to see the passion and innovation they bring to the field."

"The presentations were brief, concise, and interesting. The topics investigated were of great value, and the online feedback, combined with international cooperation, contributed significantly to each proposal."

Passport Acceptance Center

\$50,000
in profit generated from passport applications

\$16,000
allocated to study abroad scholarships



- Served 6,877 customers with a 99.9% overall satisfaction rating; 44% of survey respondents were UNM student, staff, faculty, or alumni
- Attended seven naturalization ceremonies to help welcome 1,159 new citizens at the Albuquerque Convention Center
- 409 new U.S. citizens came to the UNM Passport Center to apply for their passport in 2025



Testimonials

"Very helpful, quick, and kind service. Thank you for explaining and guiding me through the steps, and making this process easy to navigate! Will recommend to my family and friends for future passport services."

"The service was exceptional, and your photos are better than other places we tried."

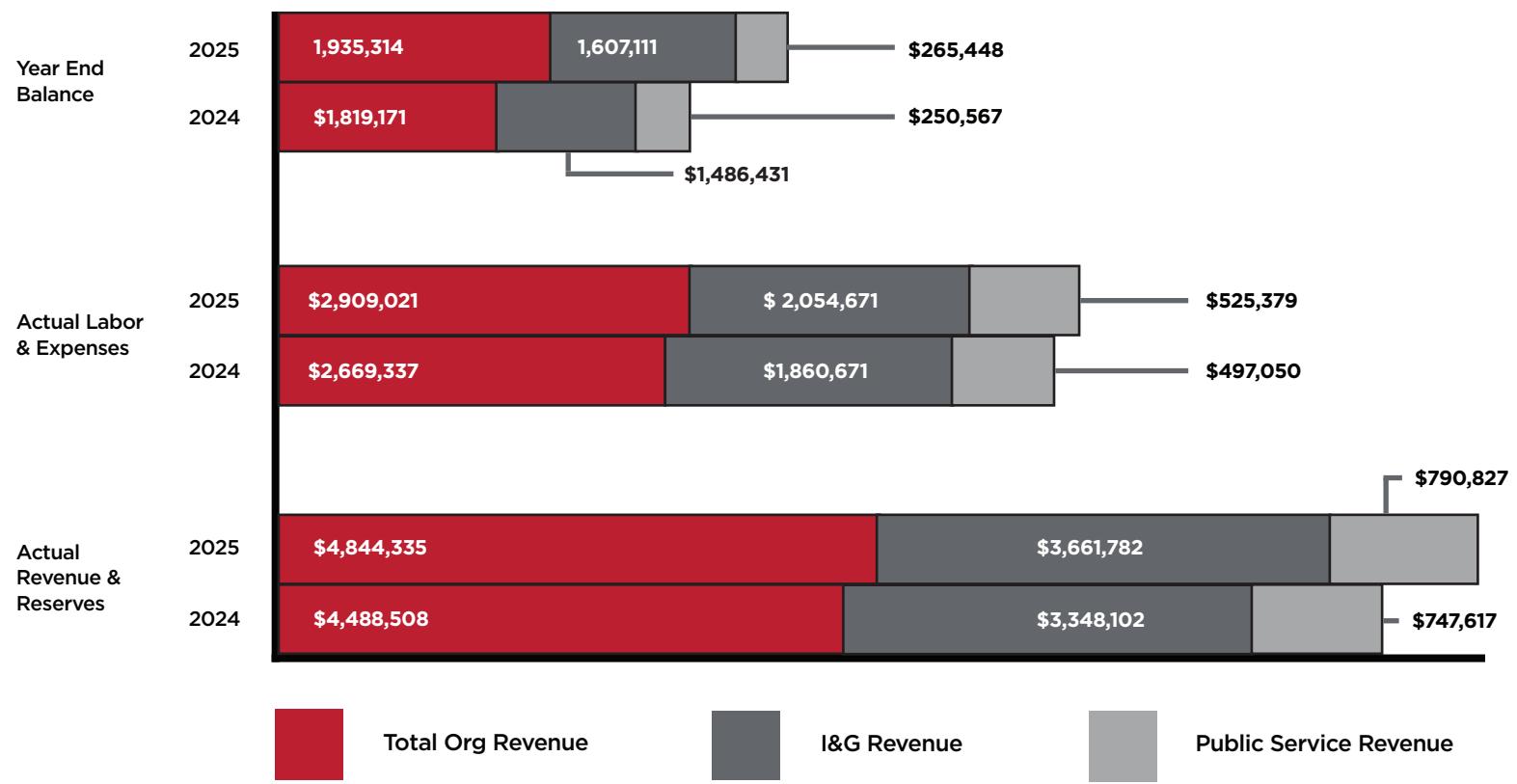
"It was super quick and easy to get my renewal ready to mail. I am so glad we have this service on campus."

"Exceptional service. The staff was friendly, and this is clearly a well-organized service."

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.

FY24 and FY25 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-away 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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