

A Vision for International Programming at UNL: A Preliminary Report from the International Programs Advisory Council

I. Preamble

We live in a time of unprecedented opportunities and challenges.

In a world that entered the previous century with 2 billion people and this century with over 6 billion, growth and change are the norm. By the middle of this century, there may well be over 9 billion people inhabiting the earth.

In the midst of this unprecedented growth, more people are rising to higher standards of living around the globe. Knowledge, people, energy, food, trade, innovation, and communications are flowing across regional and national boundaries as never before. As a full participant in this flow, Nebraska gives, receives, and shares. Nebraska truly is, as Mary Pipher suggested, in the middle of everywhere.

In this context, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has an opportunity and an obligation to position our students, staff, and faculty to be partners in and mutual beneficiaries of these international dynamics.

II. Principles

International programming efforts at UNL should be:

- Pervasive.
- Highly visible.
- Beneficial to both UNL and our international partners.
- Sustainable.
- Outcomes-focused and assessed.
- Focused on assets and in efforts.
- Developmentally appropriate for students, staff, and faculty.
- Student-centered.

III. Goals

- Enhance and create international programs that align with UNL—institutional status, attributes, culture, strengths, and location.
- Expand the international understandings and effectiveness of UNL students, staff, faculty, and stakeholders.
- Focus, coordinate, and encourage the development of international programs in select regions or countries in order to create strategic, sustainable, critical masses of activity and impact.
- Place a high priority on developing consistent, recurring international program experiences on which students, faculty, and UNL stakeholders can rely.

- Enhance and sustain welcoming, nurturing campus and community environments for international students and scholars.

IV. Strategies

A. To accomplish these goals, UNL should:

- Assure that structures and processes are in place to realize these goals, principles, and strategies. Clarify and communicate those structures and processes.
- Identify barriers to international engagement and create strategies to overcome them.
- Ensure that University administrators frequently reinforce the importance of international programming.
- Reward and recognize institutional and individual efforts.
- Identify, communicate, and pursue funding and opportunities for international efforts.
- Develop and collect institutional metrics, including these with our quality indicators.

B. To accomplish these goals, international programming efforts at UNL should:

- Engage the three primary missions of the University.
- Be congruent with UNL Core Values and complement ACE where possible.
- Be programmatic, strategic, and collaborative.
- Encompass multiple people, programs, units, or missions.
- Articulate and evaluate outcomes, revising efforts as appropriate.

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