

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

# VISION <sup>20</sup><sub>30</sub>

GLOBAL STRATEGY







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# Introduction

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign's first 150 years have been characterized by world-changing achievements, discoveries, and creations. Advancements in disability resources and education; the development of the fitness movement in the United States; the first computer-based education system; magnetic resonance imaging (MRI); the first graphical web browser; and the foundational work on the quantum-well laser that led to the invention of LED lights have redefined industries and influenced scholarship. These innovations are just a few examples of how the university has contributed to society.

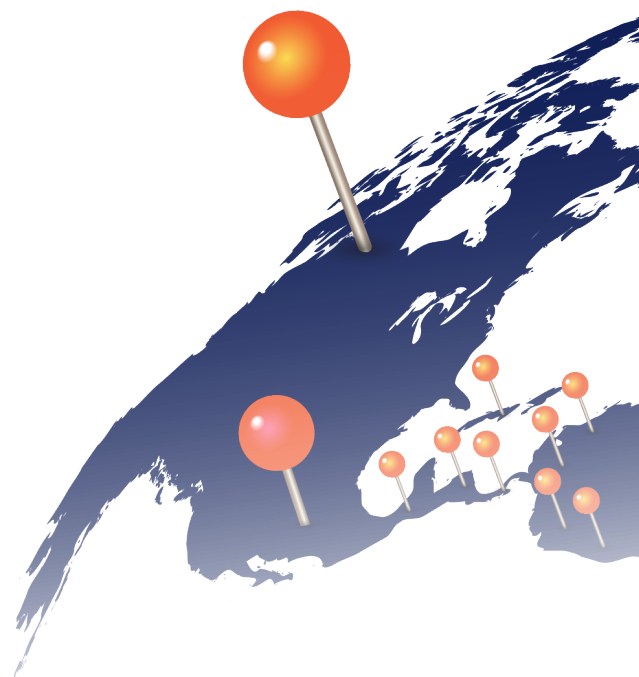
The university's greatest contribution to society, however, is its students, faculty, and staff. Our alumni, faculty, and staff are Nobel Laureates, Pulitzer Prize winners, unparalleled leaders, pioneering scholars, and advocates for justice. It was through these individuals that the university's global engagement began to thrive. As early as 1871, merely four years after the founding of the university, the first international students arrived on campus from Armenia and Canada. Students from Japan and Greece followed in 1872 and 1873, and the rest is history. The university now welcomes one of the largest international student populations among public institutions in the United States.

Our diverse population has created connections across borders and led to meaningful and collaborative partnerships with several top tier institutions around the world. This legacy of global engagement has facilitated new partnerships, connected faculty and researchers, encouraged domestic students to seek learning experiences abroad, and ultimately provided a solid foundation upon which to anchor the university's global vision for the future.

Current challenges and emerging global trends represent a call to action for the university to develop its global initiatives in alignment with our core mission and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Specifically, the university must dedicate significant efforts and resources on the African continent, Latin America, and parts of Asia that are currently underrepresented in the university's global profile. The *Vision 2030 Global Strategy* was developed with these considerations at the forefront and the expectation that our university will pursue engagements in those regions—ensuring that when enhancing its position, the university serves *all*.

**Reitumetse Obakeng Mabokela, PhD**

*Associate Chancellor and Vice Provost Global Affairs & Strategies  
Professor of Education Policy, Organization and Leadership*



*“Illinois is not merely a state or national university, but an international institution whose influence is felt on every continent and in nearly every country of the world. While the nations are puzzling their way along towards international harmony, we see the ideal already realized on our own campus.”*

Seymour, M.F. (1917)  
The Foreign Student in the United States. Editorial Review, 54, 128-139





## Our History of Global Engagement

Building on Illinois' 100+ year legacy of global engagement and the talents of the more than 450,000 alumni around the world, the university has fostered successful and meaningful strategic partnerships with several preeminent institutions. This strategy will serve as a road map for us to develop richer connections with our current partners while pursuing new cooperative relationships in the Global South.



### BRAZIL

Inspire Institute of Education and Research, CAPES Scholarship, Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies



### SINGAPORE

Singapore University of Technology and Design



### CHINA

Zhejiang University, ZJU-UIUC Institute



### SWEDEN

KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm University, Karolinska Institutet



### JAPAN

Kyushu University, International Institute for Carbon-Neutral Energy Research (I<sup>2</sup>CNER)



### TAIWAN

National Taiwan University



### INDIA

Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agricultural and Technology\*



### UNITED KINGDOM

University of Birmingham



### SIERRA LEONE

Njala University\*



### VIETNAM

VinUniversity

\* These institutions were founded in partnership with leadership from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.



## Why **Global Education** Matters

### Engaging Critical Questions

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The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign has the responsibility to provide the best possible education. This requires incorporating global perspectives and engaging critical questions. Building human capacity, not only domestically but internationally, prepares students to compete in the global marketplace, develop global competencies, and fosters responsible citizenship.

Informed by the campus strategic plan, the *Vision 2030 Global Strategy* outlines the priorities that will drive the university towards realizing its vision to be *the pre-eminent public research university with a global impact*. The strategy capitalizes on our core strengths in teaching, research, and public engagement to address challenges that transcend local, national, and international borders.

### CRITICAL QUESTIONS

- How will our university educate students for responsible global citizenship?
- How will our research and discovery positively impact the world?
- How will our university leverage technology to contribute to the development of the state of Illinois, the nation, and the world?
- How will our university cultivate collaborative and mutually beneficial relationships that build capacity, particularly in the Global South?
- How will our university contribute to the social and economic development of the state of Illinois within a globalized world?
- How will our university sustain the globalization efforts we envision?



# Guiding Principles for Global Engagement

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign has a responsibility to acknowledge the historical context in which it exists and honor principles that reflect our commitments to justice and sustainability.

## Our global engagements must:

- ▶ Be characterized by mutual trust, respect, genuineness, and commitment.
- ▶ Include measurable outcomes and processes for accountability that are established together with those with whom we work.
- ▶ Embrace values of justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, and sustainability.
- ▶ Balance power and enable resource sharing.
- ▶ Build upon identified strengths and assets of all involved, while also addressing emerging needs and enhancing capacity.
- ▶ Maintain open communication and actively listen to understand each other's unique strengths, needs, and interests.
- ▶ Create meaningful and sustainable impact in the communities in which our initiatives are anchored.
- ▶ Share the benefits of mutual accomplishments.







**STRATEGIES & ACTIONS**



# Priority 1

## Education for Global Citizenship

Recognizing our fundamental responsibility to educate global problem solvers, we must incentivize academic units to integrate education abroad into the curriculum; expand global learning options for students that utilize cutting-edge technologies for virtual and hybrid programs, internships, and international research; and offer complementary opportunities to enhance in-class learning and build a foundation to prepare globally competent students.

**Action I:** Enrich the curriculum to provide transformative learning experiences that will prepare globally competent problem solvers.

**Action II:** Cement education abroad and global learning opportunities as a requirement of degree programs.

**Action III:** Provide equitable and inclusive access to transformational learning opportunities at home and abroad.

**Action IV:** Diversify geographic, pedagogical, and technological access to interdisciplinary global learning opportunities.

**Action V:** Incorporate global learning into the university's diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and sustainability agendas.



*Illinois student practices Chinese characters with student she taught during an education abroad program in Taiwan.*



## Priority 2

### Engagement for Impact in the Global South\*

In concert with our on-campus activities to foster diversity, equity, inclusion, and sustainability, we must focus our global vision on enhancing relationships in Africa, Latin America, and parts of Asia where the university has historically not been engaged; connecting with diaspora communities across the state of Illinois; expanding visible support for Indigenous Rights globally; and investing in opportunities to address the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

**Action I:** Position our faculty and staff to be leaders in innovative scholarship to address critical global challenges.

**Action II:** Invest in strategic opportunities to integrate intercultural (e.g., Illinois diaspora communities), international (e.g., bilateral relationships), and global (e.g. online programs) dimensions into our education, research, and engagement missions.

**Action III:** Expand digital learning environments and leverage technological expertise to deliver academic programs worldwide.

**Action IV:** Develop mutually beneficial strategic partnerships with private, public, and civil society institutions in the Global South to support capacity building and increased self-reliance.

**Action V:** Prioritize just, equitable, inclusive, and sustainable initiatives to support local communities abroad.

\* Global South is a term commonly used to refer to the regions of Latin America, Asia, Africa, and Oceania collectively. Broadly generalizing, these countries have been subjected to colonization and/or marginalization by the Global North, especially by European and North American countries.



Mural put together by students in an Illinois-student led summer camp in Lumbisí, Ecuador.



## Priority 3

### Leadership for Innovative Partnership & Development

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Students, faculty, and staff across colleges, research institutes, and centers are already actively participating in collaborative scholarship across disciplines and the university's legacy strategic partnerships are yielding positive outcomes. Utilizing this robust foundation, we must identify and invest in partnership opportunities that expand existing networks and sustain them on a global scale.

**Action I:** Cultivate collaborative and mutually beneficial relationships with strategic partners to enhance impact and institutional capacity, particularly in the Global South.

**Action II:** Institute a comprehensive global communication strategy to raise awareness about our university and, in turn, increase the university's national and global profile.

**Action III:** Create a central clearinghouse for our university's global engagement to raise awareness about existing and emerging relationships across university departments and units.

**Action IV:** Utilize data-driven approaches to promote and support global engagement.

**Action V:** Connect with our alumni to ask them to serve as global ambassadors for the university in addition to supporting our global vision through resource sharing and relationship building.



*Illinois professor and student conduct research at the Morrow Plots, the oldest experimental agricultural field in America.*



## Priority 4

### Education for Inclusive Excellence

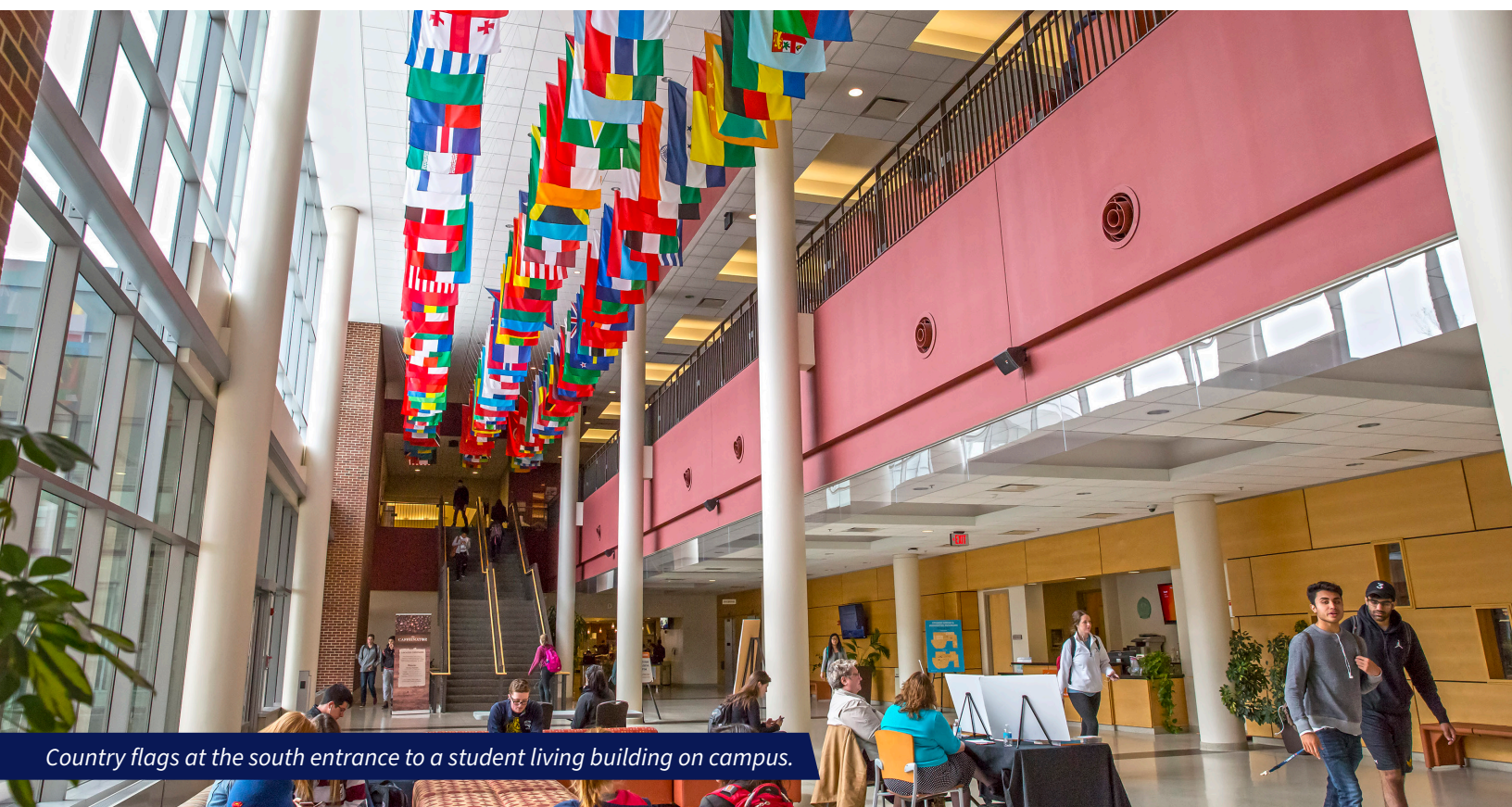
Building on our experience and leadership in global education and engagement, the university is strategically poised to demonstrate inclusive excellence across all dimensions of our institution. Creating a more diverse and inclusive university aligns with core institutional values of being a global, public research university and reflects our commitment to pursuing equitable impact in the Global South.

**Action I:** Devise a comprehensive international enrollment management strategy to diversify the university's student body.

**Action II:** Implement a competitive funding model to support global accessibility to the university's academic programs.

**Action III:** Strengthen integration of international students and scholars into the cultural and academic life of the university.

**Action IV:** Improve community engagement opportunities for our university's international faculty and staff.



Country flags at the south entrance to a student living building on campus.



# Priority 5

## Global Excellence for the State of Illinois

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As the state of Illinois' flagship public research university, the university has a fundamental responsibility to contribute constructively to the state's social and economic development. The university is critically poised to be a leader in educating globally competent students who can contribute positively to the state.

**Action I:** Serve as the lead partner with public and private sectors to engage in global activities that foster social and economic development of the state of Illinois.

**Action II:** Establish our university as a center of global excellence to serve as a resource to other public universities across the state of Illinois.

**Action III:** Leverage the University of Illinois System's international offices to establish strategic centers of excellence that advance our global education, research, and engagement priorities abroad.



*Professor and doctoral student conduct research at the University of Illinois Cancer Center.*






*“In the campus strategic plan, our university committed to redefining the role of public higher education and addressing societal grand challenges. Through the Vision 2030 Global Strategy, we have the opportunity to continue living up to that commitment, ambitiously and responsibly. Our diverse community continues to be our most valuable asset: the faculty members who will lead the research and teaching, the professionals who will support our engagement and operations, the undergraduate and graduate students who will explore and challenge the curriculum, the partners who will collaborate with us, and the alumni who will represent us around the globe. I call upon all members of our community to join us in boldly pursuing these priorities.”*

**- Chancellor Robert J. Jones**





## Thank you to the Illinois International Advisory Committee members:

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