

SCHOOL OF GLOBAL INTEGRATIVE STUDIES

STRATEGIC PLAN (AY 2022-2023)



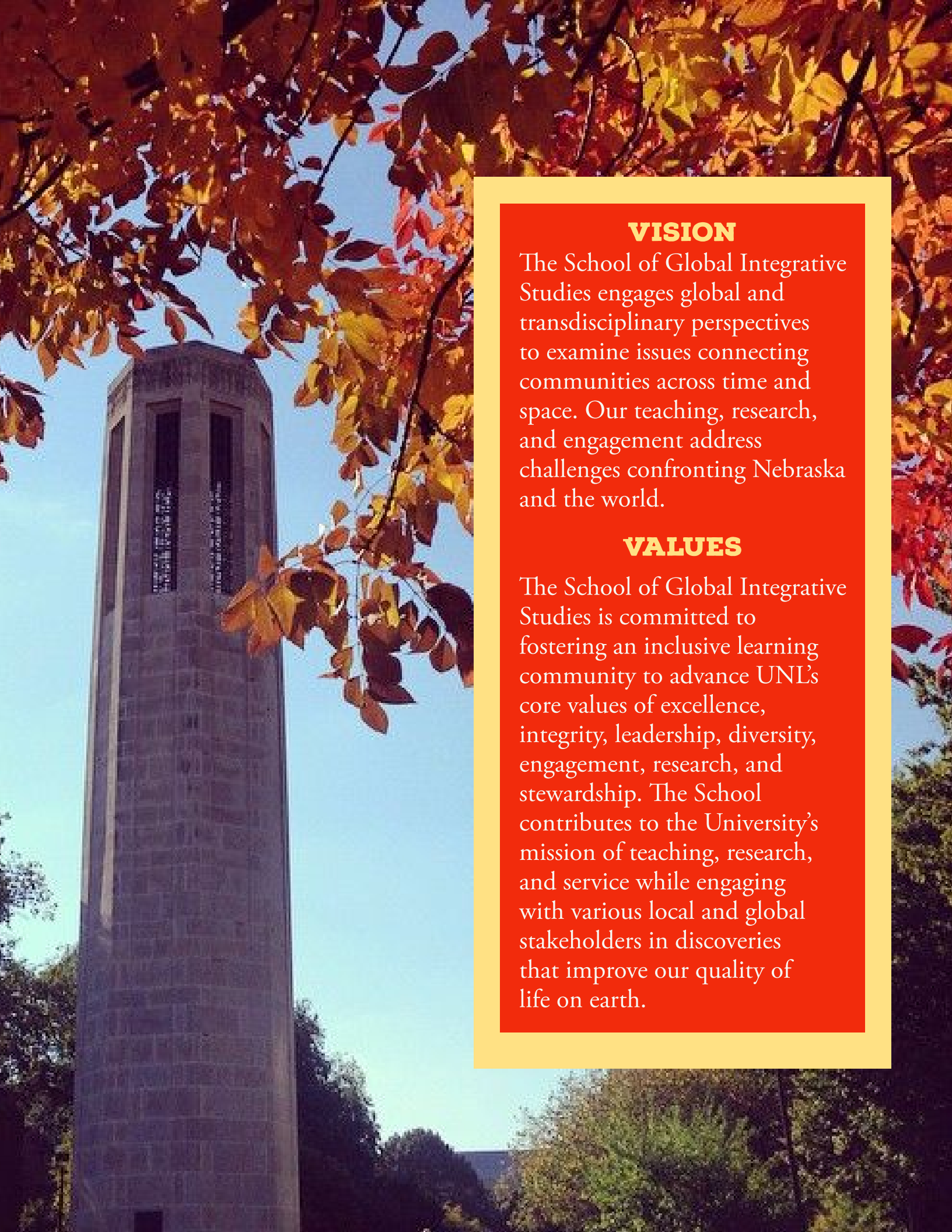
MISSION

WHAT WE DO: By interweaving the perspectives of anthropology, geography, and global studies, we critically examine diverse problems facing people and the environment to generate new knowledge. We advance understandings of historical and present-day inequities to empower students to be socially responsible citizens and 21st Century leaders.

HOW WE DO IT: Our faculty and students foster inclusivity and employ qualitative and quantitative tools (including GIS, statistical methods, and ethnography) across multiple geographic scales to encourage innovation and creativity.

WHO WE DO IT FOR: In fulfilling our land grant institutional mission, we support our students, community partners, and Nebraskans. We engage with alumni, institutional associates, and lifelong learners; and we reach diverse audiences, from specialists to the general public.

NEBRASKA



VISION

The School of Global Integrative Studies engages global and transdisciplinary perspectives to examine issues connecting communities across time and space. Our teaching, research, and engagement address challenges confronting Nebraska and the world.

VALUES

The School of Global Integrative Studies is committed to fostering an inclusive learning community to advance UNL's core values of excellence, integrity, leadership, diversity, engagement, research, and stewardship. The School contributes to the University's mission of teaching, research, and service while engaging with various local and global stakeholders in discoveries that improve our quality of life on earth.



5 DIRECTIONS FOR MOVING SGIS FORWARD

Through a synthesis of planning documents produced by constituent SGIS divisions and a review of:

- 1) strategic plans from other units,
- 2) industry best practices, and
- 3) relevant literature, the SGIS Executive Committee has identified “five directions for moving SGIS forward”.

The directions are related and overlap in some areas, but each corresponds to an important component of the School’s mission, vision, or values. For each direction, we have further identified overarching goals that can be communicated internally or externally depending on audience.



DIRECTION 1: STRENGTHEN UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

Provide undergraduate students with training and skillsets that increase competitiveness and placement in the job market

Provide students with transformative and cutting-edge opportunities for experiential learning

Empower students to be socially-responsible leaders in their chosen field

DIRECTION 2: REINFORCE EXCELLENCE IN GRADUATE EDUCATION

Maximize support and opportunities for graduate student success

Provide graduate students with relevant, innovative, and rigorous training to enhance their competitiveness and placement in the job market

DIRECTION 3: RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

Continue strengthening and supporting interdisciplinary and emergent research and scholarship within SGIS and across CAS and UNL

Increase the social impact of SGIS research locally, across Nebraska, and around the world

Continue to expand intra-disciplinary scholarship within the SGIS with allied fields of geography, anthropology, and global studies as well as inter-disciplinary scholarship within and beyond the College of Arts and Sciences.

DIRECTION 4: CULTIVATE LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO GLOBAL IMPACT

Engage local communities and stakeholders in convergent research of relevance to identify and address local questions/problems our faculty and students can help solve

Grow SGIS global presence through research and educational opportunities





DIRECTION 5: FOSTER A SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT

Support faculty and staff development in pursuit of their career goals

Strengthen the diversity in faculty and research in support of SGIS mission and values

Be an enduring model of collaborative, interdisciplinary research across CAS and UNL





STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE GOALS

The SGIS Strategic Plan focuses on the implementation of processes that we can follow to incrementally improve SGIS.

Elements of this plan generally follow adaptive management principles centered on continuous improvement – how we identify, plan, implement, and evaluate our strategic actions such that we learn and adapt future actions. Therefore, the list of strategic priorities below and the Directions and Goals included in the priorities of any academic term will change as we progress towards our goals. Finally, these priorities are not inclusive of activities currently underway in SGIS. Rather, they represent major school-wide initiatives for immediate action.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES TO BEGIN IMPLEMENTATION IN ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023

FOSTER A SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT

A sustainable and inclusive academic working environment is foundational for faculty, staff, and student success. As SGIS matures, it is important that we continue to build an interdisciplinary culture that brings together our disciplines. Further, it is vital we support faculty development and promote their research and teaching accomplishments within and outside of UNL. To that end, we have identified three strategic priorities for AY 2022-23.

STRATEGY 1:

First, we will support faculty mentorship and development through an overhaul of our merit evaluation process. The SGIS Executive Committee will be tasked with developing a new process modeled that integrates aspects of Individual Development Plans (IDPs) in a format similar to NIH and NSF standards. This format will allow for individualized growth and mentorship while also maintaining standards for achievement in the areas of research, teaching, and service.

STRATEGY 2:

Second, we will establish a new weekly colloquium series with concomitant norms regarding attendance and participation by all SGIS faculty and graduate students. This new colloquium series will be a venue for guest speakers, faculty research presentations, and career development activities. Further, it will provide opportunities to build a culture within SGIS, facilitate networking, and professionalize students. The SGIS Colloquium Committee will be tasked with managing this strategic priority during AY 2022-23 for full implementation in Fall semester of 2023.

STRATEGY 3:

Third, we will develop a process for nominating SGIS faculty for internal and external awards. Faculty recognition for their achievements in research, teaching, and service is important for individual career growth, as well as for raising the profile of SGIS. The Awards Committee will be assigned the responsibility of developing a targeted process for proactively nominating SGIS faculty for such awards.

STRENGTHEN UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

Undergraduate education is one of the pillars of UNL and the College of Arts and Sciences. It is important to our students, but also for the continued existence of SGIS, that we provide quality undergraduate education and recruit students to our classrooms and our majors. We have identified two related strategic priorities for AY 2022-23.

STRATEGY 1:

Sound decisions regarding programmatic adaptability require high-quality data and regular analysis. With the aid of the SGIS Associate Director, the SGIS Undergraduate Committee will be tasked with establishing new data collection, organization, and reporting methods to analyze the current state of (and trends in) undergraduate education across SGIS. These analytics will be inclusive of the DFW project and other similar efforts. Collectively, these analyses will aid in programmatic decision-making, but also facilitate CAS and UNL reporting requirements and support future requests for new faculty hires.

STRATEGY 2:

The Director and Associate Director will lead a networking and advertising campaign to more closely couple New Student Enrollment (NSE), SGIS advising, and undergraduate recruitment. The pipeline of new, non-SGIS-majors, into our courses is heavily dependent on decisions made by advising offices and other staff (e.g., Learning Communities) outside of SGIS. We will make a concerted effort to network with these offices and provide a normalized pathway for growing enrollment in our introductory-level courses.



School of Global Integrative Studies

August 2022

Executive Committee:

Bill Belcher

Patrick Bitterman

Emira Ibrahimasic

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