

CREATING GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Global **Minnesota**

LETTER FROM BOARD CHAIR

A GLOBAL HEART, A MINNESOTA HOME

In 1951, an intrepid group of Minnesotans created the International Center for Students and Visitors, determined to provide a welcoming community for international students. Since then, Global Minnesota has engaged people across cultures, professions, and generations for nearly three-quarters of a century. Over the years **we have grown into a statewide leader in advancing global understanding, citizen diplomacy, and international exchange.**

MINNESOTA'S GLOBAL CHAMPION

Today we stand as a trusted, nonpartisan source of insight on world events, helping Minnesotans make sense of the global developments that shape our economy, security, and communities. We convene key forums such as our Great Decisions Conference and popular events with experts, including Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat and the Consul General of Japan, making important foreign policy conversations accessible to all. At a time of worldwide anxiety and rapid change, this mission has never been more essential.

Despite rising costs and uncertainty surrounding federal exchange programs, Global Minnesota is energized by the growing demand for our work. Over 500 people attended our U.S. Foreign Policy Update to kick off the year. Visits from diplomats including the Ambassadors of Latvia, Luxembourg and Portugal reflect the essential role we play in connecting our state to the world.

75 YEARS OF DIALOGUE, DIPLOMACY, & DISCOVERY

As we approach our 75th anniversary in 2026, we are preparing to commemorate this extraordinary journey by celebrating the people who make this work possible. Our many members, supporters, volunteers and partners, working alongside our dedicated staff and board, bring Global Minnesota to life and carry forward a remarkable legacy of global engagement. Together, our work ensures that Minnesota will remain a place where informed dialogue, cultural exchange, and international connection flourish.

In the year ahead, I invite you join over 2,000 members and 550 volunteers as we honor our past, celebrate the present, and look ahead to a future in which **Minnesota continues to excel in global discovery, international dialogue, and citizen diplomacy.** Your commitment to creating global connections continues to shape the future of Minnesota and our world.

RW

Ross Wilson, U.S. Ambassador (ret.)
2022-2025 Board Chair



“This year Global Minnesota created global connections for over **23,000 participants** covering **151 countries** through **565 activities** across the state. From international visitor exchanges and student programs to world affairs events, discussion groups, and corporate engagement, **these experiences strengthen Minnesota’s ties to the world and enhance citizen diplomacy throughout the state.**”



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

LATIN AMERICA: International students from Argentina, Bolivia, Mexico, Panama, and more received a warm Minnesota welcome through local experiences, professional development, and dinners in members’ homes.

EUROPE: Ambassadors and Consuls General from Finland, Ireland, Latvia, Luxembourg, and Ukraine connected with the Global Minnesota community and Corporate Members.

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA: Kwezi from Uganda shared his country’s culture and language with first grade students at Minnesota schools.

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA: World Affairs events, including a webinar on regime change in Syria, connected Minnesotans with vital information about global developments.

SOUTH & CENTRAL ASIA: Local and national speakers discussed the rising geopolitical importance of India at Global Minnesota’s Great Decisions Conference.

ASIA-PACIFIC: A delegation of cybersecurity experts from Australia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, and more connected with Minnesota businesses, IT organizations, and electrical grid specialists through Professional Exchanges.

PROGRAMS



WORLD AFFAIRS EVENTS

Global Minnesota’s World Affairs Events program fosters meaningful global connections by bringing highly-regarded experts and diplomats to Minnesota audiences. Over the past year, Global Minnesota events engaged more than 8,400 registrants through 79 programs. Key programs including a panel on U.S – South Korea relations, a virtual discussion on the future of Ecuador, the community favorite WorldQuest trivia competition, and Mongolian calligraphy lessons deepened cross-cultural understanding and strengthened connections between Minnesota and the world.



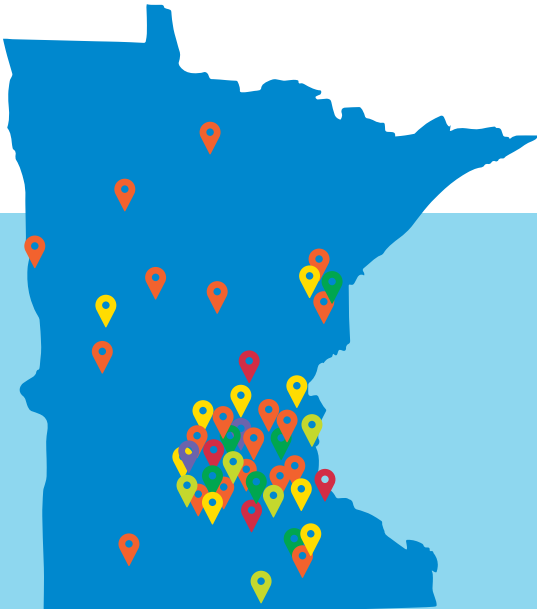
CORPORATE ENGAGEMENT

Through Corporate Engagement, Global Minnesota helps hundreds of Minnesota companies expand their international expertise and networks through opportunities to gain access, insights, and international brand exposure. In 2024-25, Global Minnesota hosted 13 specialized business briefings, including a timely discussion on tariff policy with over 500 attendees, sustainable development roundtables, and the sold-out Global Business Outlook, which provided essential context on future business megatrends. These events expand global economic partnerships, strengthen cross-border relationships, and prepare for the future of international commerce.



K-12 EDUCATION

Our Education Program fosters global awareness for every grade. Through Classroom Connection, over 2,800 students met with international volunteers, bringing cross-cultural perspectives to life. At the high school level, Academic WorldQuest challenged students from across the state to apply their understanding of the world in a fast-paced global knowledge competition. Together, these programs prepare young people to foster international understanding, develop global competency, and thrive in an interconnected world.



PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGES

Global Minnesota’s Professional Exchanges create connections across continents and spotlight the state’s incredible potential to visiting delegations. In 2024-25, nearly 300 Minnesota professionals met with international delegations from 87 countries to exchange best practices in fields such as cybersecurity, arts and culture, polytrauma healthcare, and advancing STEM education. In partnership with the U.S. State Department’s International Visitor Leadership Program and other exchange programs, these experiences create ongoing opportunities for professional exchange for leaders in Minnesota’s public, private and nongovernmental sectors.



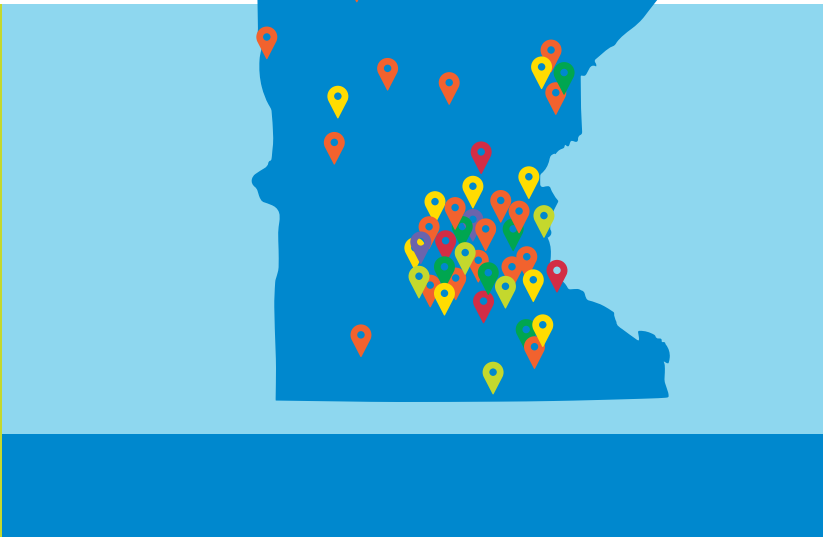
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

In a time of increasing change for international students, Global Minnesota continued our founding tradition of welcoming over 1,200 visiting students in 2024-25. Students from 82 different countries experienced iconic Minnesota adventures from local hiking to a beach day, and from visits to the State Capitol to a local apple orchard. Professional development opportunities help international students prepare for career success, while dinner hosting in Global Minnesota members’ homes create a welcoming environment. These programs connect students with meaningful cultural experiences, build lasting friendships, and share the best of Minnesota while fostering global understanding.



DISCUSSION GROUPS

Across the state, nearly 30 Great Decisions discussion groups connect communities with today’s most pressing foreign policy issues. In partnership with the national Foreign Policy Association, discussion groups across Minnesota brought thousands of participants together with local foreign policy experts for informed, civil dialogue on topics including U.S.- China relations, European security, and the global security implications of artificial intelligence. In 2025, we relaunched the annual Great Decisions Conference, creating a community forum for deeper exploration on the global challenges that impact us all.



FINANCIALS

JUNE 30, 2025

ASSETS

Cash/Cash Equivalents	\$217,411
Receivables and Prepaid Expenses	179,135
Equipment (net)	4,666
Other Assets	257,567
Investments	1,022,412
Total Assets	\$1,681,191

REVENUE

Membership and Individual	\$795,311
Corporate	368,110
Government	178,330
Program Income	142,757
Investment and Other Income	64,203
Total Revenue	\$1,548,711

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities	\$317,389
Net Assets without Donor Restrictions	425,695
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	938,107
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$1,681,191

EXPENSES

Program Services	\$1,233,705
Management and General	107,085
Development	230,167
Total Expenses	\$1,570,957

GIVING

The financial generosity
of individuals, businesses,
organizations,
and foundations is
essential to expanding
our shared
global connections.
Your support makes
this work possible.



Thanks to our
nonprofit, diplomatic, and
educational partners at the
following levels.



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- AICEP Portuguese Trade & Investment Agency
- Carlson Global Institute - Carlson School of Management
- Consulate General of Canada in Minneapolis
- Consulate of Mexico in St. Paul
- Saint Mary's University of Minnesota

SUPPORTING PATRON \$250+

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- Foreign Policy Association

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- Heritage Gear
- Minneapolis Institute of Art
- Minnesota Vikings
- Mystic Lake Casino Hotel
- R.F. Moeller Jeweler
- Twin Cities Public Television

CLIMBING TO NEW HEIGHTS

Nearly 400 Global Minnesota friends, international visitors, and globally-minded leaders from across the state joined this year's Gala to celebrate iconic mountain ranges and cultures.

The unforgettable evening featured fine international cuisine and entertainment, while raising nearly \$340,000 to support our vital mission and create more global connections across the state.

Thank you to emcee Karla Hult and to the dedicated and creative Gala committee for their work to create a successful event.



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\$50,000+

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*Special thanks to Mary Curtin and Melisa Gildner
for their service as Interim Program Director this year.*

Current as of September 1, 2025





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