

Global Education Network is dedicated to fostering cultural understanding and sustainable tourism in Mexico. Our mission is funded through the organization of educational adventures that provide travelers with enriching experiences while supporting local communities and initiatives. Through meticulously crafted itineraries, we aim to showcase the diverse beauty and heritage of Mexico while ensuring that each journey leaves a positive impact on both the environment and the people we encounter along the way. By choosing to travel with us, adventurers not only gain memorable experiences but also contribute directly to our efforts in promoting responsible and meaningful tourism practices throughout the country.

At GEN, we envision a world where all students in Mexico have equitable access to an educational experience that develops their capacity to be informed, open-minded, responsible humans who understand diverse perspectives and are able to be stewards of change, both globally and at a local level. By increasing their English language levels, students in Mexico have more access to scholarships, advanced educational opportunities and access to international and bilingual careers. Our selection of teachers are graduates from the Arizona State University school of Education and have diverse cultural backgrounds and experiences. Teachers are currently placed in low-income high-schools across Mexico City offering the Global Experience Curriculum which focuses on globalization, cultural challenges, political awareness and social justice theories.

GEN's mission is to provide an equitable,worldview education for high school age students in underserved Mexican communities. Our school teacher training, public speaking series and language development is a motivator for graduating Mexican high school students to stay in their community and build better infrastructure and opportunities. Our goal is to create Global citizens prepared to work directly in their communities to create positive change.

Founded in 2021 by a group of educators, both American and Mexican, who recognized the limited educational options for many underserved Mexican teens, they set out to bring a curriculum to inform and expand global level insights and perspectives to underserved Mexican students, while improving their English language skills and helping them to build stronger communities. The connection with the teachers from Arizona, who often are Mexican but had never been to Mexico City, offers a valuable experience for both. The students are empowered in their own communities and the teachers have experience teaching in culturally aware high schools that reflect a large percentage of Arizona's current high school enrollees.

GEN uses the **Global Experience Curriculum** which strives to create informed, open-minded, responsible humans who are knowledgeable of diverse perspectives, and able to address pressing issues collaboratively, equitably and sustainably. This curriculum offers opportunities, skills and education enabling its students to be stewards of change, advocacy and social development both globally and at a local community level. Students study issues affecting the modern world, including social structures, class, race, gender and minority issues in order to develop an understanding of current world issues and relate them to their historical, geographic, political, economic and cultural contexts. Currently the program is placed in two schools in Mexico and our goal is to expand responsibly over the next 4 years.

You might ask, “But why English?” English is the universal language spoken throughout the world, and is the de facto lingua franca used in the fields of business, academics, science, computing, education, transportation, politics and entertainment. The United Nations, the closest thing to a global community or governing body currently existing, uses five official languages: English, French, Spanish, Russian and Chinese, and an estimated 85% of international organizations have English as at least one of their official languages (French is next with less than 50%). One-third of international organizations such as the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, European Free Trade Association, and Association of Southeast Asian Nations only use English. English usage rises to almost 90% among Asian international organizations.

While all levels of school are now compulsory, attendance at the high-school level only recently became required. Inadequate funding and administrative obstacles have prevented complete implementation of mandated attendance at the high-school level. Nationwide just 67% graduate, ***with only 20% of low income students completing high-school.***

Given Mexico’s economic relationship with the United States and Canada through the US Mexico Canada Agreement (fka the North American Free Trade Agreement), improving Mexico’s education system is critical to a competitive Mexican economy. There is increasing demand for English language education due to this economic internationalization, and many Mexicans see English language competency as an investment that will increase job opportunities and status, as well as household income.

With your financial assistance GEN will be able to continue this program in furtherance of our mission by undertaking the following initiatives:

- (1) In partnership with the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College at Arizona State University, GEN will recruit native English speaking graduates to live in Mexico City for a minimum of one school year to teach the Global Experience Curriculum

and to work with both students and other non-native speaking English as a second language instructors to dramatically improve English language skills (pronunciation, fluency, use of colloquialisms, etc.). GEN will pay a portion of the annual salary for each Global teacher, as well as travel and immigration, housing and work visa expenses.

- (2) Locate and partner with Mexico City high-schools whose student population would be considered low-income or underserved with 75% of the schools enrollment qualifying. For its pilot program, GEN has identified Colegio IndoAmericano and has been providing the program for the past 5 years.
- (3) Work with the students to enter into Arizona State University and other Arizona universities through their Pathways program that provides a specific application process and acceptance for international students.
- (4) Train and utilize teacher graduates from the Mary Lou Fulton College of Teacher Development in a way that develops cultural awareness, and equity. The training will engage both the teacher and the students in a way to strengthen community building skills, leadership confidence and utilize English as a tool for progress.