**Our Mission and Philosophy**

The world is on the verge of a global reset in which traditionally analog paradigms, political alliances and modes of operation no longer hold. In today’s global environment, innovation and change are coming from collaboration across disciplines, sectors and geographies. Addressing pressing issues like inequality, poverty and environmental degradation require breaking out of traditional modes of inquiry and problem solving.

Northwestern University’s Roberta Buffett Institute for Global Affairs brings together the brightest minds from across Northwestern University and around the world to address critical global challenges that cannot be solved from a singular disciplinary or geographical perspective. **Our mission is to foster meaningful engagement across borders of all kinds.** We believe that relationships among individuals and institutions—globally and locally—are what generate new knowledge that sparks solutions to global challenges.

“The new genius is a collaborative genius.”

—Annelise Riles, Executive Director of Northwestern Buffett

**Our Work**

Northwestern Buffett serves as a hub of connectivity that fosters collaboration across sectors and traditional silos of expertise, geography and culture through: transnational dialogue, transnational research and international education and cultural exchange.

**Fostering Transnational Dialogue**

As part of our mission to create new models of global collaboration, we’re building a global community for multilingual dialogue. The community, **Meridian 180**, brings scholars and practitioners together for meaningful collaboration across cultural and linguistic borders, virtually and in-person. Meridian 180 community members cross the divide between the academy, industry and public sector to identify gaps in research and programming, in areas where it is vitally needed to address global challenges. Our members are scholars, lawyers, policymakers, activists and business professionals.

**Meridian 180 by the Numbers**

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<tr>
<th>1,500</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>55</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Members representing academia, government, &amp; nonprofit</td>
<td>Languages</td>
<td>Online conferences since its inception in 2011</td>
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**Catalyzing Transnational Research**

Northwestern Buffett’s research collaboration model empowers researchers and thought leaders from all walks of life to tackle complex problems together in a multicultural context. A creative and iterative approach helps groups produce substantive solutions to shared global challenges as defined by the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals.
Our Research Trajectory

Our research trajectory focuses on the processes of idea formation and incubation, and it starts with dialogue.

IDEA DIALOGUES
Northwestern Buffett’s Research Trajectory begins with Idea Dialogues that bring together scholars from across disciplines for informal conversations about a research question of global significance. The hope is that these discussions give rise to interdisciplinary global research projects that contribute to progress toward a UN Sustainable Development Goal.

WORKING GROUPS
Selected by a panel of judges at the annual Idea Incubation Workshops, Working Groups receive up to two years of Northwestern Buffett funding and support to conduct research aimed at addressing a global challenge and pursue active measures to mitigate its impact on citizens and communities worldwide.

IDEA INCUBATION WORKSHOP
The annual Northwestern Buffett Idea Incubation Workshop brings together groups of scholars and practitioners for a weekend of focused conversations and productive collaborations. Teams work collectively to develop plans to address pressing global challenges through research, dialogue, strategic output and action.

Facilitating International Education & Cultural Exchange

Leaders in the 21st century must be agile thinkers and doers who can navigate ambiguity, embrace diverse viewpoints and rapidly adapt to new technologies. Northwestern Buffett’s Global Learning Office prepares students to collaborate effectively across borders of all kinds. We work with faculty and NGOs to develop international learning experiences that foster cross-cultural communication, collaboration, empathy and humility. Students gain knowledge and experience in a diverse range of areas including global health, energy technology and policy, and political and economic development.

Northwestern Buffett also supports a robust global community. Our Office of Global Safety and Security supports students, faculty and staff who travel abroad in collaboration with partners in the U.S. and abroad, while our Office of International Student & Scholar Services advises, advocates on behalf of and develops cultural exchange programming for Northwestern’s international populations.

Last year, Northwestern Buffett’s Global Learning Office administered:

- **150** global experiential learning programs in **50** different countries

The same year, Northwestern Buffett supported more than **8,000** international students, scholars & families

Learn more at buffett.northwestern.edu