In This Issue

First-ever Nebraska Civic Health Index Released

On Thursday, April 23rd, the first-ever Nebraska Civic Health Index was released. The Public Policy Center, as a member of the Nebraska Civic Health Partnership spearheaded by Nebraskans for Civic Reform, played an important role in compiling the Index for the state of Nebraska.

This index is designed to be an interactive tool with targeted action items for all Nebraska communities to increase civic health and retain informed and engaged residents.

The results show that in relation to other states, Nebraskans enjoy strong civic health, particularly in activities related to social connectedness - 82.3% interact with family or friends frequently - and confidence in institutions - more than 90% of Nebraskans are confident in public schools, 5th highest nationally. The state’s weakest area of civic health is political involvement, ranking 36th out of the 50 states and the District of Columbia in voter participation. 12.2% of Nebraskans reporting that they contact public officials.

The press conference was well attended and the Lincoln Journal Star published an article about the Index.

2015 Lincoln Vital Signs Report to be Featured at Community-wide Breakfast

Dr. Nancy Shank, PPC Acting Director, will present and discuss results from the forthcoming Lincoln Vital Signs 2015 report on May 12th during a community-wide breakfast at the Pinnacle Bank Arena.

The updated report will now include two years of new data. Following
the breakfast meeting, engagement activities are planned so the data can be used to help Lincoln prosper and focus on ways to become even stronger.

Come learn about the latest data on Lincoln’s strengths and challenges. Doors open at 7:00 a.m. and the event begins at 7:30 a.m. Registration deadline for the breakfast is May 6th.

PPC Faculty Fellow Studies Psychological Wellbeing and Resilience of Astronauts

Center Faculty Fellow, Dr. Mitchel Herian, was part of a team of UNL researchers who completed technical reports for NASA on how to select and train astronauts with the mental toughness to survive lengthy space flights. NASA assigned the UNL team two tasks: to sum up existing research and to identify priorities for future research.

Dr. Herian was sought out by NASA because of his previous experience in studying wellbeing and mental resilience among military personnel.

Great Plains Disaster Behavioral Health Conference

Save the Date! The 2015 Great Plains Disaster Behavioral Health Conference will be held on July 10th from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the
Hilton Downtown Omaha (1001 Cass Street, Omaha, NE).

This all day conference, organized by the PPC, will feature renowned speakers, lunch, and networking for disaster behavioral health professionals. The cost to attend is $65 (before July 1).

For more information, please visit: www.disastermh.nebraska.edu

Save the Date!

Great Plains Disaster Behavioral Health Conference

Friday, July 10, 2015

Hilton Downtown Omaha | 1001 Cass Street

Sen. Deb Fischer Talk on U. S. Foreign Policy

On April 8th, Sen. Deb Fischer visited campus as part of the Thomas C. Sorensen Policy Seminar Series. Sen. Fischer discussed U.S. foreign policy in front of a crowd of approximately 200 students, faculty, and community members. After the talk, Sen. Fischer held a question and answer session and spoke one-on-one with attendees.

If you weren't able to attend the talk, an audio recording is available.
The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center links policy with research, process, and practice.

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