Great Plains Disaster Behavioral Health Conference

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 Public Policy Center, focuses on the psychological consequences of emergencies and disasters for first responders, particularly fire and rescue personnel. Presentations will be given by Jeff Dill, MA, who will speak about suicide among first responders; Sara Gilman, MS, LMFT, regarding treating mental health issues within the first responder community; and Gina Larson, MA, ABD, who will present on ethics in disaster behavioral health.

Application for 5.75 continuing education hours for psychologists has been made to PsychContinuingEd.com. Registration for this conference is $75 and includes CE hours and lunch. Register online here.

For more information, visit the conference website, or contact Hayley Sutter at hsutter2@unl.edu or 402-472-9459.
Mayor Proclaims "Prosper Lincoln Day"

On Thursday, June 18, 2015, Lincoln Mayor Chris Beutler proclaimed it Prosper Lincoln Day. Following the release of the 2015 Lincoln Vital Signs report, co-authored by Public Policy Center Acting Director Nancy Shank and Research Specialist Stacey Hoffman, the Prosper Lincoln initiative is building conversations and collaborations for addressing community issues in Lincoln. During Mayor Beutler's proclamation, he encouraged people throughout Lincoln to participate in this conversation on how to develop a community agenda for positive change.

Nebraska Recycling Study Report Released

Did you know that in 2013, Nebraskans spent approximately $33.5 million to dispose of roughly $86.5 million worth of recyclables? The Public Policy Center, Joslyn Institute for Sustainable Communities, and the UNL Bureau of Sociological Research teamed up to conduct a study on recycling in Nebraska in order to better understand current recycling habits in Nebraska. The goals were to better inform policy decisions and establish a baseline to measure future progress. This study included surveys of recyclers, city clerks, and county treasurers, a review of recycling practices in other states, as well as public forums conducted in four communities across Nebraska.

The major findings in the final report were: 1) Nebraska lags in recycling compared to other states; 2) there are significant gaps in availability and accessibility to recycling in the State; 3) there is not
currently a comprehensive plan or strategy to improve recycling in Nebraska; and 4) there are best practices demonstrated to be effective in other locations and in Nebraska communities that could be implemented across Nebraska, leading to reductions in waste and increases in recycling.

### Center Researchers' Edited Volume Now Available

Public Policy Center Director (on leave), Alan Tomkins, and Faculty Fellow, Brian Bornstein are editors of the 62nd volume from the Nebraska Symposium on Motivation titled, "Motivating Cooperation and Compliance with Authority: The Role of Institutional Trust." This volume, published by and available through Springer, explores the ways in which trust is thought about and studied in contemporary society. Trust is an important topic because it raises issues of both motivation and emotion. Notions of trust and fairness motivate individuals to behave in a manner they deem appropriate, specifically when responding to governmental authority. This volume aims to advance both theoretical and methodological perspectives on trust.

### Former PPC Student Researcher Continuing Work in Policy

Ryan Anderson, a Public Policy Center Graduate Research Assistant from 2012 - 2015, graduated this May with a Master's Degree in Economics. He has since begun working as a Fiscal & Policy Analyst for the California Legislative Analyst's Office, which provides the California Legislature with nonpartisan policy advice. Ryan is responsible for researching policies and offering guidance to the Legislature in the areas of Special Education and K-12 school financing. He is currently undertaking a special project evaluating the state's education of students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

### Center Work Featured in SAMHSA Disaster Technical Assistance Bulletin

In May of 2015, SAMHSA (U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) put out a Disaster Technical Assistance Supplemental Research Bulletin which featured Nebraska's Psychological First Aid training. Public Policy Center researchers created this Psychological First Aid training and curriculum in order to teach paraprofessional volunteers skills to provide the needed support to others in a crisis. This training introduces critical skills in seven main areas and complements that of the National Center for Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Nebraska's curriculum is designed for non-licensed helpers and as an introduction for clinicians.
Staff Spotlights - What are we up to this month?

Center Postdoctoral Fellow, Ellie Shockley, recently had an article published in Social Psychological and Personality Science titled, "Power to the People? Psychological Mechanisms of Disengagement from Direct Democracy." The article discusses how the goal of direct democracy is to bring power to change laws to ordinary citizens, but that some may be alienated because policy language is often complex, perhaps impacting citizens' voting likelihood and support for policies. After testing theorized links between complexity of policy language and particular outcomes, the findings suggest that policy language complexity motivates compensatory trust in policy institutions but does not likely explain decreased voting likelihood.

Two PPC staff made appearances June 18th on the Coby Mach radio show (KFOR 1240AM). Acting Director, Nancy Shank, was on air discussing the Prosper Lincoln project and how Lincolnitcs can help shape the goals and agenda of the City. Senior Research Manager, Lisa PytlikZillig, talked about the City's Taking Charge 2015 citizen satisfaction survey.

Center Senior Research Manager, Lisa PytlikZillig, and Faculty Fellow, Mitch Herian, are a part of a team including researchers from Nebraskans for Civic Reform, who are collaborating on a multi-article piece for Prairie Fire newspaper regarding the Nebraska Civic Health Index. The first in this series focuses on Nebraska's civic health strengths.