2015 Lincoln Vital Signs Report Release and Prosper Lincoln Launch

On May 12, 2015, over 900 community members gathered at the Pinnacle Bank Arena for the release of the Public Policy Center's 2015 Lincoln Vital Signs report, sponsored by 13 of Lincoln's philanthropic organizations, business community, and city and county government. PPC Acting Director, Dr. Nancy Shank, presented the findings of the report highlighting three cross-cutting themes:

1. Lincoln does many things exceptionally well and these successes should be nurtured.
2. A growing proportion of Lincoln's population faces real need.
3. Lincoln's children fare poorly on many measures.

Barb Bartle, Lincoln Community Foundation President, urged everyone to participate in a community engagement effort inspired by Lincoln Vital Signs called Prosper Lincoln. Through Prosper Lincoln, ideas will be gathered about how Lincoln can ensure youth are successful, our economy grows, and our community is strong and vibrant. Everyone is invited to participate through events, meetings, and an online suggestion form. Other speakers included Mayor Chris Beutler and University of Nebraska President, Hank Bounds. The Channel 5 City TV recording of the event is now available here.

PPC Partners in Planning for Disaster

Ryan Lowry, PPC Research Specialist and Nebraska Citizen Corps Coordinator, recently assisted with the kick-off meeting for the Hall County COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disaster). The COAD was formed through a collaborative effort between Hall County Emergency Management, UNL Extension in Hall County, and
numerous community organizations that play a vital role in the event of a disaster. These community organizations will meet regularly to discuss disaster education and training opportunities, as well as share resource capabilities with each other so that during times of disaster community needs will be met.

With help from the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN), Hall County COAD will develop policies and procedures to ensure volunteer organizations are well prepared to respond to a disaster. As Hall County continues to grow their COAD, Nebraska Citizen Corps and UNL Extension hope to capture their "best-practices" to share with other counties wanting to form a COAD.

Center Student Researchers Present at Conference

PPC student researcher and National Science Foundation (NSF) Research Experience for Undergraduates Scholar, Addison Fairchild, along with PPC graduate research assistant, Christopher Kimbrough, recently presented at the 2015 Association for Psychological Science conference in New York City. These students presented a total of six different posters regarding the Center's NSF-funded studies on the development of trust in institutions.

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, 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.