Tomkins Serving as NSF Acting Division Director

Public Policy Center founding director, Dr. Alan Tomkins, has been named Acting Director of the National Science Foundation Social and Economic Sciences Division within the Directorate of Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences. Dr. Tomkins has received approval for a second year leave of absence from the Center to fulfill these responsibilities. Dr. Nancy Shank, the Center's Associate Director, will continue serving as Acting Director.

Strategies to Reduce Exclusionary School Discipline

Public Policy Center collaborator and UNL Professor of Special Education, Reece Peterson, is organizing a one-day conference where attendees will identify strategies to prevent or reduce the need for exclusionary discipline and develop a research-to-practice network to assist schools in implementing these practices.

The conference will be held on September 18, 2015 from 9:30am to 4:30pm at UNL Innovation Campus Conference Center. There will be ample free parking and a box lunch is included with the $25 registration fee. (Scholarships covering this fee are available for UNL faculty and students.) Agenda and registration can be found here. Registration closes September 9th.
An Update on the Prosper Lincoln Initiative

Inspired by Lincoln Vital Signs reports, authored by Center researchers Dr. Nancy Shank and Dr. Stacey Hoffman, the Prosper Lincoln initiative asked local residents to share their ideas about how to make Lincoln even stronger. More than 2,000 responses were collected. Center researchers have compiled the ideas and are working with the Prosper Lincoln Steering Committee to create a community agenda. For more information on Prosper Lincoln or to sign up for updates, visit www.ProsperLincoln.org.

Introducing the 2015-2016 Public Policy Center Faculty Fellows

The Public Policy Center Faculty Fellows program recognizes those whose research, applied scholarship, or engagement activities provide key insights into important policy issues. Center researchers will work with the Fellows throughout the coming year to extend our expertise and to provide practical contexts for Fellow research. The 2015-2016 Public Policy Center Faculty Fellows are:

- **Dr. Jessiline Anderson**, Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Nebraska-Omaha
- **Dr. Brian Bornstein**, Professor of Psychology and Courtesy Professor of Law at UNL
- **Dr. Mitchel N. Herian**, researcher affiliated with UNL
- **Dr. Sarah Michaels**, professor in the Political Science Department at UNL
- **Dr. Peter Muhlberger**, Senior Analyst for the National Science Foundation's (NSF) National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics
- **Dr. Juan Paulo Ramírez**, Lecturer in Geography with the UNL School of Natural Resources and independent consultant focusing on the applications of GIS science
- **Dr. David Rosenbaum**, Associate Director of UNL's Bureau of Business Research and Professor of Economics.
- **Dr. Ashok Samal**, Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at UNL
- **Dr. Mario Scalora**, Professor of Psychology with the Clinical Training and Law-Psychology Programs at UNL
- **Dr. Leen-Kiat Soh**, Associate Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at UNL
Annual Community Emergency Response Team
Conference Recap

The Nebraska Citizen Corps Program hosted its annual Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Conference in Grand Island, July 31 and August 1. The conference was organized by the Public Policy Center's Ryan Lowry, who serves as the state coordinator for the Citizen Corps Program, along with Hall County Emergency Management. The purpose of the conference was to bring together CERT volunteers from across the state to train together to be better prepared for responding to disasters or emergencies in their communities. This year’s conference focused on training related to flooding and severe weather.

For additional information and great coverage of the conference, please check out this new story.

Former Graduate Researcher Wins National Award

Former Public Policy Center Graduate Research Assistant, Rosa Vinas-Racionero, was awarded the Chris Hatcher Memorial Scholarship award from the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (ATAP). This award was presented at the ATAP Annual Conference held at Disneyland and included the cost of travel to the conference, as well as a $2,000 monetary reward. The purpose of this award is to spur interest in research topics related to threat assessment, stalking, and violence in the workplace.

In her acceptance speech, in front of approximately 750 attendees, Ms. Vinas-Racionero thanked staff from the Public Policy Center. Congratulations, Rosa!
The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center links policy with research, process, and practice.

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