

PolicyTalk - September 2016

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NOAA Grant Supports Drought Disaster Planning Community Toolkit

The Public Policy Center, in partnership with the High Plains Regional Climate Center and the National Drought Mitigation Center, was recently **awarded funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration** to develop an online toolkit for communities across the United States to use in planning for drought. For the first time, the process will apply the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment process to droughts. The approach and online tool will be piloted in the Platte River Basin. Center senior research director and project lead, **Dr. Denise Bulling**

notes, "This project has the potential to bridge the planning efforts of water resource professionals with more traditional disaster planning done by emergency management agencies."

The research team also includes **Dr. Lisa PytlikZillig**, senior research manager at the Public Policy Center; Dr. Crystal Stiles, applied climatologist and postdoctoral research associate at the High Plains Regional Climate Center; and Dr. Deborah Bathke, climatologist at the National Drought Mitigation Center.

Several media outlets have featured this project:

- Audio interview on the **Nebraska Radio Network**
- Video interviews from **10/11 News Pure Nebraska**

NebraskaRadioNetwork @nebraskanews - Sep 19
 Few understand impact of drought, according to University of Nebraska researchers (AUDIO)



University of NE PPC @NU_PPC - Sep 22
 Did you see #NUPPC researcher @DBNE2 on the news yesterday discussing #NOAA project focusing on drought? #NUforNE

Few understand impact of drought,
 Researchers at the University of Nebraska misunderstandings about drought and r
 nebraskaradionetwork.com



UNL gets grant for drought research
 A grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will help a University of Nebraska-Lincoln research team create a web-based tool ...
 1011now.com

Center Researcher Selected for 2016-2017 UNL Speakers Bureau



Public Policy Center Senior Research Manager, **Dr. Kate Speck**, is one of the 26 speakers available through the 2016-2017 UNL Speakers Bureau. This free service, now in its 22nd year, connects faculty and other university experts with Nebraska citizens through service organizations, schools and other groups who want knowledgeable, interesting speakers on a variety of topics. Kate is available to speak on a variety of topics including professional ethics, addictions, trends in adolescent addictions, and

motivational interviewing. For more details on how to request Dr. Speck as a speaker, visit the [UNL Speakers Bureau website](#).

2016 *Be Prepared* Awards Presented by Lt. Governor

On Friday, September 23, Nebraska Lt. Governor Mike Foley presented this year's *Be Prepared Awards*. These awards, sponsored by the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, in partnership with the Nebraska Citizen Corps Program and the **University of Nebraska Public Policy Center**, recognize volunteers and community

organizations for their role in disaster preparedness and response. Public Policy Center researcher and Citizen Corps Coordinator, **Ryan Lowry**, was there to honor recipients as they received their awards. "Preparing yourself, your family, and your community for a disaster or emergency is important," said Lowry. "Those being honored with the *Be Prepared Awards* understand that our communities are stronger and more resilient when we are prepared. Their commitment to disaster preparedness and response is truly appreciated. "

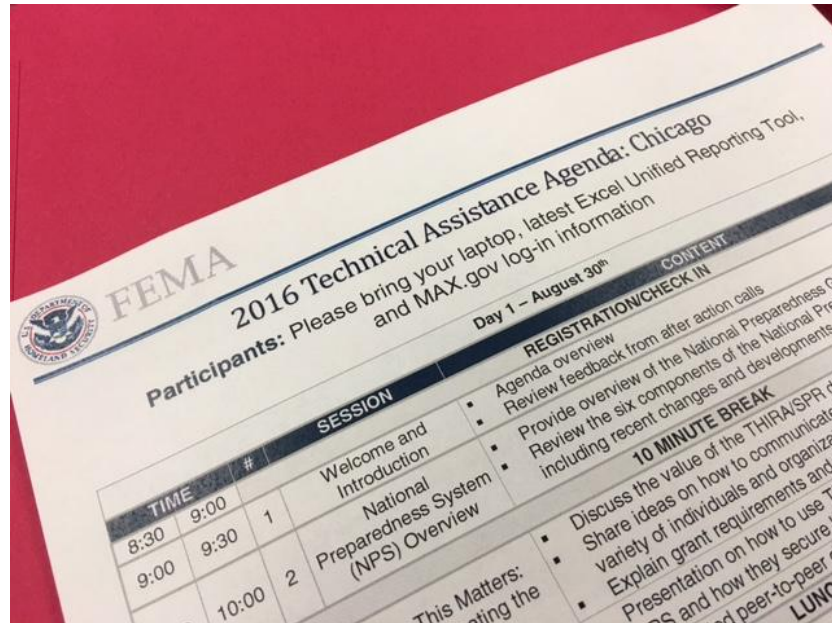


Top photo: Lt. Governor Mike Foley

Bottom photo: 2016 Be Prepared Award recipients include Jim Green of McCool Junction, Dr. John Markwell with UNL's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Box Butte County Fair Board in Hemingford, Amy Zaruba of Albion, Margo Riekes with the Better Business Bureau, Hall County Community Organizations Active in Disaster, and Randy Hiddix of Sidney.

Center Researcher Speaks at National Workshop

On August 30, 2016, Public Policy Center Senior Research Director, **Dr. Denise Bulling**, was an invited speaker at a national workshop for states and metro areas on Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Analysis (THIRA) in Chicago, Illinois. Participants from all across the county came to this Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Technical Assistance meeting.



Next Sorensen Policy Seminar to Focus on Death Penalty

The next **Thomas C. Sorensen Policy Seminar Series**, set for **October 25, 2016, from 3:30 - 5:00 PM** in the Centennial Room of the UNL City Campus Union, will focus on the death penalty. ***The Death Penalty in Nebraska: A Debate Featuring Senator Colby Coash and Senator Beau McCoy*** is timely since this year, Nebraskans will be asked to eliminate or keep the death penalty. State lawmakers abolished capital punishment in 2015, but a successful petition initiative has brought the issue directly to voters on the November general election ballot. State Senators Colby Coash and Beau McCoy - leading figures in the pro and anti-repeal movements - will discuss the death penalty from both perspectives and take questions from audience members.



This event is free and open to the public. This debate is co-sponsored by the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center, UNL Center for Civic Engagement, UNL Department of Political Science, UNL College of Arts and Sciences, and UNL College of Journalism and Mass Communications. If you have questions about this event, please contact

Tarik Abdel-Monem at tarik@unl.edu.

Thomas C. Sorensen Policy Seminar Series
The Death Penalty in Nebraska: A Debate Featuring
Senator Colby Coash and Senator Beau McCoy

Tuesday, October 25, 2016 | 3:30 PM – 5 PM
The Centennial Room, UNL City Campus Union

This event is free and open to the public. It will be moderated by Fred Knapp of NET News and is co-sponsored by the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center, UNL Center for Civic Engagement, UNL Department of Political Science, UNL College of Arts and Sciences, and UNL College of Journalism and Mass Communications.



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Questions? Contact Tarik Abdel-Monem
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The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center links policy with research, process, and practice.

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Check our calendar for upcoming events:
<http://events.unl.edu/ppc/upcoming/>

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