

We Are Hiring!

The Public Policy Center has an opening for an Administrative Support Associate. This employee will be responsible for providing diverse and complex support and coordination for a variety of Center projects, as well as executive assistance to senior research staff as part of the Center's administrative team.

Review of applications began on NOVEMBER 29th, and will remain open until filled. **Visit the University of Nebraska-Lincoln employment website for more position details, minimum qualifications, and instructions on how to apply.**

CENTER RESEARCHER PART OF NIMBUS LAB FIRE-IGNITION DRONE PROJECT

Public Policy Center senior research manager, **Dr. Lisa PytlikZillig**, is a part of the University of Nebraska Intelligent Mobile Unmanned Systems (NIMBUS) Lab team that **received new funding** from the National Science Foundation to continue their work developing drones with capabilities to start and monitor controlled fires in order to better manage wildfires and protect firefighters. With this funding, NIMBUS Lab and its partners will be able take what they've created a step further. Dr. PytlikZillig's focus will be research on



understanding public opinions and reactions of this project and its outcomes.

PUBLIC POLICY CENTER HAS STRONG PRESENCE AT UNL RESEARCH FAIR

Research staff from the Center participated in the University of Nebraska Fall Research Fair 2016: Director, **Dr. Mario Scalora** spoke at the Social and Behavioral Sciences Research Consortium to connect with attendees and talk about available Center expertise and Associate director, **Dr. Nancy Shank** was on hand at the Research Fair open house to discuss possible collaboration opportunities with faculty partners.



CENTER RESEARCHERS BRING MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING TECHNIQUES TO LINCOLN MEDIATORS

With the support of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln **Social and Behavioral Science Research Consortium**, **Dr. Kate Speck** and **Dr. Lisa PytlikZillig** have undertaken a pilot study where mediators from The Mediation Center in Lincoln, are trained to use Motivational Interviewing skills. Dr. Speck is a nationally recognized trainer of Motivational Interviewing and Dr. PytlikZillig is a certified and experienced mediator.



Lisa PytlikZillig & Kate Speck

Motivational Interviewing (MI) is an evidence-based method of helping people engage in behavior changes. This technique has been successfully used to help people tackle drug and alcohol addiction, weight loss, and other unhealthy behaviors by supporting a person's desire to change while respecting their autonomy.

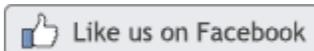
The synergies between mediation and Motivational Interviewing hold a lot of promise. MI skills help people plan for and support change. Mediation helps opposing parties put together a plan for change. The difference is that mediation involves a situation that MI research has yet to test - whether MI skills can be employed successfully in a situation involving a neutral party (as opposed to a support person or counselor) working with opposing parties.

Motivational Interviewing training for the Lincoln mediators took place on September 13, 2016 so that they can effectively use this method in family mediation, particularly those related to the Parenting Act. Dr. Speck and Dr. PytlikZillig will hold follow-up meetings with the local mediators for coaching and to collect feedback on how useful the combination of mediation and MI is for mediators when addressing things like changing parental arrangements and bettering communication. The desired outcome is to create a training that combines aspects of both processes to increase effectiveness for behavior change in mediation.

The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center links policy with research, process, and practice.

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