

## 2016 in Review

The Public Policy Center has had a busy 2016! Looking back over the year we've had quite a few successes:

- Welcomed new director, Dr. Mario Scalora
- Collaborated with University of Nebraska-Lincoln faculty from all colleges on campus
- Obtained \$2.8 million dollars in external funding
- Recorded over 5,000 publication downloads from 119 countries
- Received funding for new projects from the National Institute of Justice, U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Granted permission for definitional work to be included in FBI Threat Assessment monograph
- Organized our 48th Thomas C. Sorensen Policy Seminar
- Collected data resulting in two bills that will create a more efficient delivery of driver's licenses across Nebraska
- Had two staff members become nationally certified threat assessment managers
- Explored partnerships with colleagues in Australia, New Zealand, Chile, United Kingdom, Spain, Ethiopia, Canada, and Sweden

These successes reinforce the diversity of the Public Policy Center's expertise, impacts, and related funding portfolio, as

well as the breadth of collaborations across the University, city, state, nation, and world. Here's looking forward to the new partnerships and outcomes 2017 will bring.



## PROJECT TO END CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS IN LINCOLN GETS UNDERWAY

Public Policy Center Associate Director, **Dr. Nancy Shank**, is leading the evaluation of a project that **aims to end chronic homelessness in Lincoln**. This project is funded by a three-year \$1.9 million dollar grant from the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration awarded to a collaboration of Lincoln agencies and University of Nebraska centers, led by Region V Systems.



Project team from L to R: Dr. Nancy Shank, Dennis Hoffman, Jeff Chambers, and John Turner

"This project addresses both housing and behavioral health treatment needs, giving the consumers we serve the support they need to go from homeless to housed, with the ultimate goal of never repeating that cycle again," said John Turner, Region V Systems.

Recent media coverage of this project includes:

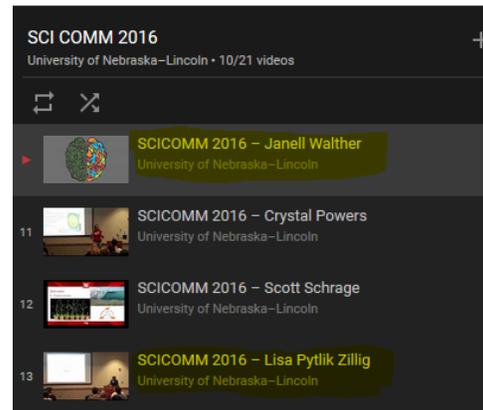
- **10/11 News video story, "Grant awarded to help end homelessness in Lincoln"**
  - **Lincoln Journal Star article, "Effort to end chronic homelessness in Lincoln gets \$1.9M boost"**
  - **Lincoln Journal Star news release, "\$1.9 million grant aims to end chronic homelessness in Lincoln"**
  - **Channel 8 News video story, "Centerpointe receives 1.9 million dollar grant"**
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## PUBLIC POLICY CENTER STAFF PRESENTATIONS AVAILABLE ONLINE

Research Specialist, **Janell Walther**, and Senior Research Manager, **Dr. Lisa PytlikZillig**, both presented at the **2016 SciComm Symposium**.

This two day event on effective science communication set out to help science

professionals communicate more effectively with the public, public officials, the media, and others outside their own discipline about the important and interesting work they are doing. If you were unable to attend the event, but are curious about transforming engagement with science using creative nonfiction or the public perception of drones used for weather-related purposes, you can **watch those presentations online**.



## CENTER RESEARCHER WORKS ON WATER ISSUES THROUGH SBSRC SEED GRANTS

With the support of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln **Social and Behavioral Sciences Research Consortium (SBSRC)** seed grants, **Dr. Nancy Shank** has been collaborating with multiple University of Nebraska faculty to address water issues both at home and across the globe.



Dr. Nancy Shank, Associate Director

In one project, Dr. Shank teamed up with University researchers, **Dr. Craig Allen**, **Dr. Francisco Muñoz-Arriola**, and **Dr. Christine Reed**, to develop a research plan for modeling the ecological and human impacts of policy choices in the Platte River Basin. This project team received additional supportive funding from the NU FEWS (Nexus of Food, Energy, and Water Systems) seed grant program to pursue funding through the National Science Foundation INFEWS program, and to which the team has already submitted a full proposal.

Additionally, Dr. Shank has been working with another group at the

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University, led by **Dr. Patrice McMahon**, to explore the current water crisis in Ethiopia as well as the impact of aid programs and technological innovation.

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

**Be sure to check our calendar for upcoming events**

**Sign up** for PolicyTalk and **view recent issues!**

