

## Public Policy Center Partnering with Nebraska Department of Education

Researchers from the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center, led by **Dr. Mario Scalora**, in partnership with the National Institute of Justice and the Nebraska Department of Education, will examine how perceptions and organization of school safety and security are associated with the level and type of law enforcement engagement in rural schools.

"A collaboration with the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center is a win-win. It's great for Nebraska schools, it's great for the Nebraska Department of Education, and great for the University of Nebraska. These partnerships are critical to move forward with safety and security in Nebraska schools," said Jolene Palmer, School Safety and Security Director for the Nebraska Department of Education.

Rural schools engage with local law enforcement but they often do not label that engagement as part of a formal "school resource officer" (SRO) model. This project will lead to a taxonomy of how law enforcement is engaged in rural schools that can be tested against behavioral outcomes, establish reliability of school perceptions of safety and security, and examine how safety and security preparedness is associated with law enforcement engagement in rural schools.

"The vast majority of school safety research is performed in urban and suburban areas. Since both rural educators and law enforcement personnel must work together with limited financial resources, it is important to study how they best maximize their efforts to keep schools safe," said Dr. Scalora.



Pictured L to R: Dr. Denise Bulling, NUPPC; Dr. Mario Scalora, NUPPC; Dr. Jolene Palmer, Nebraska Department of Education

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## UNIVERSITY OF UTAH PROFESSOR SPEAKS AT RECENT SORENSEN POLICY SEMINAR



On April 13, Robin Kundis Craig, James I. Farr Professor of Law at the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law in Salt Lake City, Utah, where she is the Acting Director (2016-2017) of the Wallace Stegner Center for Land, Resources, and the Environment, addressed attendees of the [49th Thomas C. Sorensen Policy Seminar](#).

Professor Craig based her talk on her forthcoming book with Melinda Harm Benson, *The End of Sustainability*, and discussed how American culture and law can better adapt, prepare for, and respond to the Trickster of the Anthropocene. She discussed aspects of and implications for sustainable development including social, environmental,

and economic factors; and explained that resilience thinking is an improvement because it acknowledges that sudden and unpredictable change is a reality of life. It also provides a system that acknowledges that what is possible today in terms of pursuing human goals may not be possible tomorrow. She cautioned that law and policy still have to supply the normative goals we seek to achieve in a constantly changing world with the constant threat of diminishing resources and ecosystem services.

If you were unable to attend Professor Craig's talk, you can [view her presentation slides and listen to an audio recording](#) on the Public Policy Center website.

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## CENTER RESEARCHERS WORKING WITH NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senior Research Directors, [Dr. Mark DeKraai](#) and [Dr. Denise Bulling](#), are partnering with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to provide an evaluation of the [Nebraska System of Care \(NeSOC\) project](#).

The NeSOC creates a comprehensive and sustainable system of care that is youth guided, family-driven, trauma-informed and culturally responsive to improve outcomes for children and youth with serious emotional disturbances and their families. Public Policy Center researchers will work with partners to collect service-level data on individuals and families to complete an evaluation of the project. They will also work with the national evaluation team to ensure performance measurement requirements are integrated with the local evaluation.



Dr. Denise Bulling



Dr. Mark DeKraai

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## **SAVE THE DATE FOR 2017 GREAT PLAINS DISASTER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONFERENCE**

The Great Plains Disaster Behavioral Health Conference is set for July 27-28, 2017 at the Embassy Suites Downtown Omaha, NE. This year's conference theme is "Back to Basics" and will present two training tracks appropriate for both behavioral health professionals and disaster behavioral health volunteers without a license.

This conference is for psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, mental health care providers, public health officials, nurses, clergy, emergency managers, and first responders to learn and recognize how to prepare and respond to the psychological effects of disaster and mass casualties.

[Visit the conference website for updates.](#)

**NEBRASKA  
DISASTER  
BEHAVIORAL  
HEALTH**



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## **PUBLIC POLICY CENTER IS HIRING; OPEN POSITION FOR SENIOR RESEARCH DIRECTOR**

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln seeks to attract and retain a high performing and diverse workforce in which employee's differences are respected and valued to better meet the varying needs of the diverse populations we serve. The university fosters a diverse and inclusive work environment that promotes collaboration so that all individuals are able to participate and contribute to their full potential.

The Senior Research Director will join the Center's Senior Leadership Team and will be responsible for developing a research portfolio of funded projects to enrich public policy translational and basic research and implementation in Nebraska and the world in the area of Public Safety and National Security. The position will create effective partnerships, develop policy-relevant research, deploy University expertise, and facilitate public participation; additionally the position will oversee all aspects of a portfolio of projects from project conception to final reporting.

Minimum qualifications include master's degree in a social science plus five (5) years' experience in research and/or project work related to Public Safety and/or National Security, or closely related field; additionally, two years' minimum experience in program management. Work history will demonstrate outstanding verbal, interpersonal, planning, and writing skills. Professional experience in research design, data collection, and analysis is required. Ideal candidate will have a PhD.

Review of applications will begin June 1, 2017.

**[Full position details and instructions on how to apply are available on the university's Employment Opportunities website.](#)**

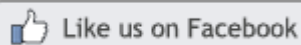
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