

Public Policy Center Involved In "Partners for Places" Project

Lincoln City Mayor, Chris Beutler, and the Lincoln Community Foundation announced that the **Partners for Places organization has awarded funds that will be used to enhance sustainability in Lincoln neighborhoods south of the downtown area.** The Lincoln South of Downtown Community Development Organization (LSDCDO) will use the funds to install energy-efficient street lighting, mark bike lanes, remove and replace ash trees destroyed by the Emerald Ash Borer and expand community gardens. Partners on this project include City of Lincoln Stronger Safer Neighborhoods initiative and the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center.

Lincoln is one of 15 U.S. cities to share in funding from the Partners for Places matching grant program. The program pairs cities with philanthropy to support sustainability projects that promote a healthy environment, a strong economy and citizens' well-being.

"This is an exciting opportunity to work with various community partners and residents to help make important sustainable investments in the Everett and Near South neighborhoods," said Shawn Ryba, LSDCDO Executive Director. "It is the hope that this initiative serves as an impetus for more resident-informed investment in the future."

You can read the full press release [here](#).



May 5, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Sustainability Projects in 15 Cities Get a Boost with New Funding from
Partners for Places**

\$1.7 million will fund environmental efforts across the U.S.

Coral Gables, Fla. — Fifteen cities across the United States will receive more than \$1.7 million for sustainability efforts as diverse as supporting urban agriculture and reforestation, providing green jobs for low-income workers, and ensuring all residents benefit from their community's environmental progress.

The funding is through the [Partners for Places](#) matching grants program, which pairs city governments with philanthropy to support sustainability projects that promote a healthy environment, a strong economy, and well-being for all residents.

REI BLOG FEATURES WORK OF CENTER RESEARCHER

REI blog, [Co-Op Journal: Stories of A Life Outdoors](#), recently featured the psychological research of Center staffer, [Dr. Frank Ferraro III](#). His study explored the cognitive benefits of being in the wilderness, specifically, can the time in the outdoors enhance creative problem-solving in college students. Within the REI blog article, we learn that Dr. Ferraro was trying to duplicate the previous work of cognitive neuroscientist David Strayer because it became clear to him that repeating Strayer's findings would be critical to support the claim that spending time in nature increases cognition. Though there have been other studies done in this area, many do not test a control group as Ferraro's did. By incorporating a control group, it provided the experimental possibility to establish a positive causal connection of nature on cognition.

For this research, Dr. Ferraro strayed from his usual focus of addictive behaviors. When asked why he did so he explained that, "after directly experiencing the solitude of wilderness on several summer trips, and not having cell phones, TVs, or other modern accoutrements was quite

liberating and felt cognitive changes in myself and wanted to investigate whether these alterations were happening in a broader scope with students."

The goal of all of this for Dr. Ferraro is to provide an argument that wilderness experiences are healthy and necessary for psychological well-being, and to perhaps see schools and other groups begin to use wilderness experiences as a strategy for educational development that gives students a different way to increase their problem-solving and creative abilities.



Dr. Frank Ferraro III (back row, standing, last on the right) and students in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, MN.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE GREAT PLAINS DISASTER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONFERENCE 2017

Registration is open for the Great Plains Disaster Behavioral Health Conference taking place 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.

The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center (NUPPC) is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The NUPPC maintains responsibility for this program and its content. This conference has been approved for 6.25 CEs for each day of the conference (or 12.5 CEs for both days).

Visit the conference website for updates.

GREAT PLAINS
DISASTER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

JULY 27-28, 2017 | OMAHA, NE



#GPDBH2017

SORENSEN POLICY SEMINAR SPEAKER INTERVIEWED FOR NEWS STORY ON THE END OF SUSTAINABILITY



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, recently spoke at the **49th Thomas C. Sorensen Policy Seminar** regarding the end of sustainability.

This topic is causing some to rethink their approaches to environmental laws and policies. NET news reporter, Ariana Brocious, met with Dr. Craig to discuss further. Her interview touches on why our current system of law is not suited to a future with climate change and why different cultural narratives that Americans use to frame humans' relationship with the natural environment are problematic.

[Full interview transcript and audio available on the NET News website.](#)

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.

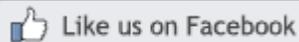
This position will remain open until filled.
Review of applications will begin July 17, 2017.

Full position details and instructions on how to apply are available on the university's Employment Opportunities website.

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

Be sure to check our calendar for upcoming events

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