

# POLICY TALK

The Latest in Public Policy Center News and Events

## IN THE NEWS

### Lincoln's Taking Charge Report Survey Launches This Month

**This 2018 survey aims to measure Lincoln resident satisfaction with city services.**

The City of Lincoln has partnered with the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center on the Taking Charge public engagement process since 2008. This year's survey will focus on parks and long grass maintenance and the funding gap for street maintenance. The findings of the survey will help the City make important decisions about these topics. This year, instead of having one large "Community Conversation" about the topics, Public Policy Center Senior Research Manager [Dr. Lisa PytlikZillig](#) will facilitate smaller "Conversations in Communities" around Lincoln. [Request a group discussion.](#)



### PPC Researchers Gain New Insights at CUSO Conference

**This year's conference provided new insights and ideas about improving opportunities for kids, their families, and their communities.**

PPC research specialists [Janell Walther](#) and [Ryan Lowry](#) were in Athens, Georgia for the 2018 Conference of the [Consortium of University Public Service Organizations](#) (CUSO). They engaged in roundtable discussions and presented their work on Nebraska school safety

initiatives, psychological first aid training, & early childhood education.



## Lincoln Future Builders Challenge Boot Camp & Pitch Competition

[Prosper Lincoln's](#) Future Builders Challenge recently held a competition, sponsored by Spreetail, where nearly 100 students formed four-person teams. The students were among the 3,000 who completed Gallup's BP10 assessment, a tool

to measure entrepreneurial aptitude. With the help of community mentors, students had to refine and pitch a business addressing one or more of the Prosper Lincoln's focus areas. Prosper Lincoln is a four-year initiative that aims to address key issues in our community in the areas of early childhood education, employment skills, or innovation & entrepreneurship. The [University of Nebraska Public Policy Center](#) and the [Lincoln Community Foundation](#) are two of the organizations that serve leadership roles in developing the overall strategy and objectives for Prosper Lincoln. This month, 30 students will participate in the next phase of the challenge, an intense four-week training session at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. [Learn More.](#)

## QUICK LOOK

### Mental Health Awareness

Public Policy Center researchers regularly focus on efforts to improve mental health and disaster behavioral health. Our researchers work with programs and initiatives on outreach, mental health training, suicide prevention, and education.

The [2018 Great Plains Disaster Behavioral Health Conference](#) in Omaha draws professionals from around the country. Recently, [Governor Pete Ricketts](#) praised Nebraska Behavioral Health's comprehensive system of care, which is youth guided, family-driven, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive. PPC researchers work with partners to collect and analyze data necessary for evaluating the project. The goal is to improve the lives of families with children or young adults dealing with serious emotional concerns. The state of Nebraska is committed to improving lives of those dealing with behavioral health issues. [Learn more](#) about Nebraska System of Care (NeSOC).



## Community Forum Focused on Preventing Mass Violence



LEADERSHIP  
LINCOLN

Violence prevention is an area where the Public Policy Center provides a leadership role in research, outreach, and informing policy. Senior Researcher [Dr. Denise Bulling](#) participated in a community forum hosted by Leadership Lincoln which focused on preventing mass violence. Facilitating the discussion were Chief of the Lincoln Police Department, Jeff Bliemeister; University of Nebraska Public Policy Center Senior Research Director, Denise Bulling; Mental Health Association of Nebraska Executive Director, Kasey Moyer; and Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department Manager of Health Promotion, Charlotte Burke. [See News Coverage.](#)

## The PPC Team is Growing

The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center is hiring the following positions: a [postdoctoral fellow](#) to perform targeted violence research; a [research coordinator](#) to manage all aspects of project administration, from project design and development to final reporting; and a [research specialist](#), who will conduct and facilitate research on a variety of public policy issues. **Review of applications begins June 19.**



## RESEARCH IN FOCUS

### Researchers Examine Role of Chaplains in Mental Health for Service Members

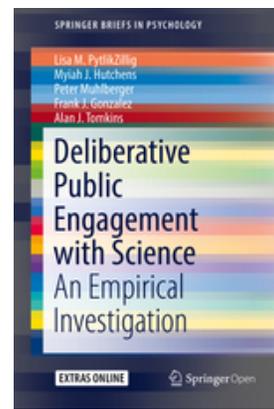
PPC researchers [Tarik Abdel-Monem](#), [Dr. Mark DeKraai](#), and [Dr. Denise Bulling](#) were published in the Military Law Review, the legal journal of the U.S. Army's Judge Advocate General school. Their article, titled "Privileged Communications of Military Chaplains and Mental Health Professionals: Case Law of Military Rules of Evidence 503 and 513," looks at how chaplains and mental health providers can work - separately or together - to handle sensitive mental health information of service members. [Read More.](#)



## PPC Researcher's Look at Science Behind Deliberative Public Engagement

The work of PPC researcher, [Dr. Lisa PytlikZillig](#) and her co-authors offers an in-depth analysis of experimental methods applied to public engagement practices around nanotechnology.

The researchers go beyond popular concepts of educated consumers and an informed public by examining the science behind deliberative engagement. Using data from four longitudinal studies, the authors assess public engagement methods in deliberative discussions of ethical, legal, and social issues concerning innovations in nanotechnology. [Read More.](#)



### CONTACT US

University of Nebraska  
Public Policy Center

215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 401  
Lincoln, NE 68588  
402.472.5678 | [ppc.unl.edu](http://ppc.unl.edu)

**Our mission is to link policy with research, process & practice.**

We team with policymakers & other stakeholders to actively inform public policy & put knowledge into action.



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