

# POLICY TALK

The Latest in Public Policy Center News and Events

## Featured News



### Nebraska Researchers Tailor FEMA Process for Drought

For the first time, emergency managers and community planners have guidance on how to use the federal **Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment** process to prepare for drought. Developers of the new online, multi-media Drought THIRA Toolkit introduced it via a live webinar Nov. 29. **Video of the webinar is now online.**

A team led by Dr. Denise Bulling, disaster and behavioral health expert with the **University of Nebraska Public Policy Center**, worked with emergency managers and planners in the Platte River Basin to pilot the THIRA process for drought. **The National Drought Mitigation Center** and the **High Plains Regional Climate Center**, based at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, provided detailed data on the extent and effects of drought in the basin.

The toolkit was developed with the support of the Sectoral Applications Research Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

You can watch the toolkit demonstration at [go.unl.edu/thirawebinar](http://go.unl.edu/thirawebinar) or visit the drought THIRA website at [droughtthira.unl.edu](http://droughtthira.unl.edu).

Watch the Webinar

Visit the Project Website



## Holiday Closing:

The Public Policy Center will be closed for winter break from December 24th through January 1st. The office will reopen with regular hours on January 2nd.

## Upcoming Events

### BEAM Behavioral Health Training Center Announces 2019 Workshops



BEAM offers monthly workshops.

A primary focus of the BEAM Behavioral Health Training Academy is monthly workshops and training for professionals in the areas of criminal justice, psychology, mental health, and addictions. The following **workshops have been announced for the first quarter of 2019:**

- **January 18, 2019** - Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for You and Me - Dr. John Herdman, PhD, LADC
- **February 15, 2019** - Skilled Report Writing for Criminal Justice Clients - Brady Shay, LIMHP, LADC, CPD, DOT
- **March 8, 2019** - Trauma: Creating a Shelter from the Storm - Pamela Oltman, MS, LIMHP, LADC

For more details on how to register for any of the 2019 BEAM workshops, visit [tinyurl.com/BEAMworkshops](http://tinyurl.com/BEAMworkshops). Additional workshops for 2019 coming soon.

### Nebraska Threat Assessment and Crisis Training

The Public Policy Center and the Nebraska Department of Education offer threat assessment training for Nebraska schools.



**Level 1 (2-day Trainings):** This K-12 school team training with Dr. Mario Scalora will focus on identifying, assessing, and managing the risk or threat of violence posed by students, staff, and community members toward the school community. Cost is \$150 per person.

- **February 20-21 2019** 9:00AM-3:30PM CST - Hastings, NE
- **April 9-10, 2019** 9:00AM-3:30PM MST - Mullen, NE
- **April 17-18, 2019** 9:00AM-3:30PM MST - Ogallala, NE

#### Advanced Training (1-day Training):

This advanced training with Dr. Mario Scalora is for K-12 school teams and focuses on assessment challenges addressing emerging issues (extremism, social media, mental illness) and management strategies. Cost is \$85 per person.  
**Prerequisite - Level 1 training**

- **March 20, 2019** 9:00AM-3:30PM CST - LaVista, NE

[See list](#) of trainings and locations. Register at [esupdo.org](http://esupdo.org) or visit the [Countering Violent Extremism](#) website for more information.

## MOOCocracy Public Engagement Pilot to Address Food Insecurity

Researchers at the **University of Nebraska Public Policy Center**, **University of Florida Department of Agricultural Education and Communication**, and **UNL Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources Media** have developed a new concept for public engagement in Massively Open Online Communities, called MOOCocracy. The MOOCocracy concept focuses on informed dialogues for effective action (IDEAs) and incorporates learner-centered tools and pedagogy for promoting online social democratic learning and mobilization around critical social issues. The first MOOCocracy learning dialogues will focus on **food insecurity** and will start in February of 2019. To learn more about this online learning and community engagement platform and to join the upcoming pilot, visit [MOOCocracy.org](http://MOOCocracy.org).



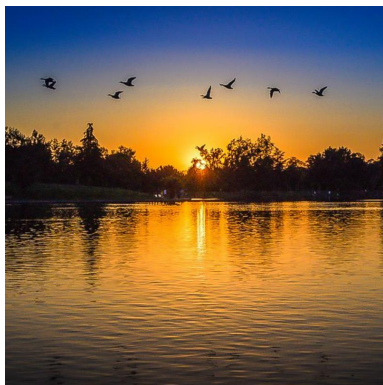
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## Center News

### Center Researcher Trains Hurricane First-Responders in Puerto Rico



NETNews Nebraska spoke with senior research director Dr. Denise Bulling about her work helping first-responders in Puerto Rico learn to deal with grief after Hurricane Maria. Listen/Read the story on [NET's website](#).



### Associate Director Publishes on Implications of Groundwater Irrigation and Climate

The latest issue of the journal *Climate Change* features an article by Public Policy Center Associate Director Dr. Nancy Shank and her co-authors. The study looks at climate change, irrigation and groundwater availability within the High Plains Aquifer.

[Read the article](#).



### The Public Policy Center is Hiring a Research Coordinator

Join our diverse research team and engage in a variety of research and consultation activities with policymakers at the local, state, and federal levels. [Apply by January 7](#).



PUBLIC POLICY CENTER

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**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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