

POLICY TALK

The Latest in Public Policy Center News and Events

Featured News

**“When I do good,
I feel good.”**

-Abraham Lincoln



LincolnLittles.org

An early childhood education initiative.



Lincoln Community Foundation's Day of Giving Raises \$637,397 for Lincoln Littles Program

On February 12, Abraham Lincoln's birthday, the Lincoln Community Foundation hosted the very first Lincoln Littles giving day in support of Prosper Lincoln's early childhood initiative. The fundraising event encourages people to join forces to help children in need receive a quality early childhood education. An initiative that grew out of the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center's Lincoln Vital Signs project, Prosper Lincoln aims to promote early childhood, employment skills, and innovation.

Learn more at LincolnLittles.org or visit ProsperLincoln.org



Stay Tuned: The next issue of Policy Talk will have information about the upcoming Great Plains Disaster Behavioral Health Conference in Omaha, Nebraska.

Upcoming Events

BEAM Behavioral Health Training Center Offers 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 2019**:

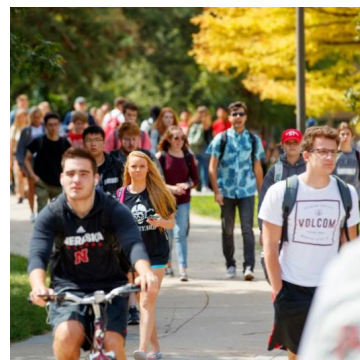
- **March 8, 2019 - Trauma: Creating a Shelter from the Storm** - Pamela Oltman, MS, LIMHP, LADC
- **March 29, 2019 - Skilled Report Writing for Criminal Justice Clients** - Brad Shay, LIMHP, LADC, CPD, DOT
- **April 18, 2019 - Mental Health Assessment and Management of Threatening Behaviors** - John Nicoletti, PhD., ABPP

For more details on how to register for any of the 2019 BEAM workshops, visit [the BEAM Training Center info page](#). Additional workshops coming soon.

Center Serves Key Role in Strategic Planning for Suicide Prevention at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

The **University of Nebraska Public Policy Center** is proud to be a part of the 3-year Garrett Lee Smith Suicide Prevention Grant with **Big Red Resilience and Well-being**. Nebraska is one of only 19 schools to receive the grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

The project aims to develop campus-wide programs and training to provide mental health and suicide screening for students. The PPC will develop and implement a comprehensive evaluation plan for the project. This is a significant advancement in suicide prevention at Nebraska. Connie Boehm, director of Big Red Resilience and Well-being explains "the goal is to create an expanded culture of caring across the entire university." Read the full story in [Nebraska Today](#).



MOOCocracy Launches Public Engagement Pilot to Address Food Insecurity in Nebraska

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 dialogue focuses on **food insecurity** and launched on February 25. To learn more about this online learning and community engagement platform or to join the conversation, visit MOOCocracy.org.

Center News



Associate Director Invited to Speak at Summit for Young Children

Dr. Nancy Shank took part in the Summit for Young Children "Panel of Champions" at Innovation Campus. This event is one of the many ways stakeholders and community members are working towards Prosper Lincoln's goal of nurturing every child on the path to success.



Senior Research Director Speaks at Interdisciplinary Research Event

Senior Research Director Mark Dekraai presented to colleagues at the University of Nebraska as part of the Qualitative Mixed Methods group. His talk "Analysis Challenges and Solutions with Large Qualitative Datasets" generated interdisciplinary interest among faculty and prompted discussion of innovations in research methods.



New Research Coordinator Joins the Public Policy Center

Lindsey Button joined the Center as a research coordinator. Born and raised in Canada, she received her BSc from Queen's University and her MSc in Biological Sciences from Simon Fraser University. She has worked extensively with agricultural industry stakeholders, non-profit, and the USDA. Her work at the Center focuses on projects related to behavioral health, including System of Care and the BEAM Training Academy.

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