

# POLICY TALK

The Latest in Public Policy Center News and Events

## Featured News



### **Public Policy Center Staff Mobilizes for Flood Recovery**

Immediately after the recent flooding around the state, the **University of Nebraska Public Policy Center** sent our administration support specialist, Julie Nickel, and research specialist, Ryan Lowry, to Fremont, Nebraska. The pair worked with Ashley Mueller and our colleagues at **Nebraska Extension - Disasters** to assist with managing the team of dedicated volunteers at the Fremont Area Volunteer Reception Center to help those affected by flooding. Read the full story at [Nebraska Today](#).

In the days following the flooding, research specialist, Quinn Lewandowski was named **volunteer liaison for the state of Nebraska**. He is working with FEMA and NEMA to coordinate the volunteer response across the state.

Center senior research manager, Dr. Kate Speck is working around the state

conducting **psychological first aid training** with Theresa Henning from Region V Systems and Shannon Sell of Region II Human Services.

Senior research director, Dr. Denise Bulling, and senior research specialist, Dr. Stacey Hoffman, are managing the **Crisis Counseling Grant for the state of Nebraska**. The Center's role is to oversee the implementation of activities in the field, while providing training and technical assistance during disaster response.

The University of Nebraska is working to support the needs of students, faculty, staff, and members of the public who have been impacted by the recent storms across the Midwest. Find out about University of Nebraska-Lincoln resources for recovery. Visit [flood.unl.edu](http://flood.unl.edu) for more flood resources.

### **Center Director Receives NU President's Excellence Award**

Dr. Mario Scalora, director of the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center, has been awarded the 2019 **Innovation, Development, and Engagement Award (IDEA)** from the University of Nebraska for his work in threat assessment, violence prevention, and public safety. The award recognizes faculty who extend their expertise beyond the boundaries of the University to enrich the broader community. Read the full story in [Nebraska Today](#), the [Omaha World Herald](#), the [Lincoln Journal Star](#), and the [Daily Nebraskan](#).



### **Nebraska Researchers Create Online Tools to Help Cities Plan for Changes in Climate**

Nebraska researchers from the Nebraska State Climate Office, UNL School of Natural Resources, High Plains Regional Climate Center, the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center, and the UNL College of Architecture have developed Climate4Cities, **an online suite of tools** with data to help cities plan for changes in climate. Created in partnership with the City of Lincoln and funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the project includes a website with interactive tools and climate reports for 11 cities in Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri, which describe how these cities handle issues related to changing climate. [Read the full story](#) or visit the [Climate4cities website](#).



**Stay Tuned:** The next issue of Policy Talk will have a sneak peek of the Center's new promotional video.

## Upcoming Events

### Registration Begins for The 2019 Great Plains Disaster Behavioral Health Conference

**Keynote Speaker Dr. Patricia Watson to present training on Stress First Aid.**

The Great Plains Disaster Behavioral Health Conference consists of a full day training in **Stress First Aid**. This training focuses on skills and techniques for serving first responders. It is appropriate for both licensed behavioral health professionals and for paraprofessional disaster behavioral health responders.

Conference Objectives:

- Describe the role of behavioral health professionals in working with responders.
- Identify how behavioral health professionals and peers provide support to responders.
- Discuss the ethical implications of providing Stress First Aid.
- Explain the benefits of Stress First Aid in promoting community wellness.

Visit the [conference website](#) or visit our [registration page](#).



### BEAM Behavioral Health Training Center Offers Additional 2019 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:**



- **May 31, 2019 - Cognitive Behavioral Therapy For You and Me (Part 1 of 3)** - John Herdman, PhD, PC, LADC
- **June 21, 2019 - It is Nothing Like a TV Show: How to Coach Families in Successful Interventions** - Otto Schultz, M. Div, BA, LADC
- **July 19, 2019 - Successful Strategies in the Treatment of Anxiety & Obsessive Compulsive Disorders** - Gerry Merck, MHDL, LIMHP, LADC

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.

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## Center News

### Associate Director Speaks on Water Resources Management

Dr. Nancy Shank spoke at the **American Water Resources Association** annual conference in

Omaha to discuss proactive planning for public participation in integrated water resources management. Dr. Shank was joined by her colleague, Melissa Mosier, of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. Their panel focused on one of the many ways stakeholders and community members are working towards improved water management around the state.



### **New Research Coordinator Joins the Public Policy Center**

Megan Allen has joined the Center as a research coordinator. Megan received her B.A. in Psychology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2017 and her M.S. in Public Health from Oxford Brookes University in 2019. Megan's interests include behavioral health topics, such as suicide prevention and mental health policy.



### **Public Policy Center Welcomes New Information Technology Specialist**

Aljavon Boles recently joined the Center as our Information Technology Specialist. Aljavon attended Military College and studied directed energy systems, low observables, and stealth technology. After college, he gained experience in applied technologies before joining the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Information Technology Services. Following a brief departure to coordinate a team in software development for the State of Nebraska, Aljavon joined the Center. In his position as Information Technology Specialist, he weaves, fixes, and designs relationships between existing and future technological assets.



#### **CONTACT US**

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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.



