

February 2025

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska** PUBLIC POLICY  
CENTER



# POLICYTALK

The Latest in Public Policy  
Center News and Events

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## Featured News

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### Working with Partners to Address Critical Challenges in School Safety



The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center is working with partners across the state to address critical challenges in school safety, student mental health, and emergency preparedness with a variety of innovative projects. "It's not just about preventing shootings. It's about providing tools to support students and staff across a

broad array of challenges," Mario Scalora, director of the Public Policy Center, said. Center researchers collaborate with the Nebraska Department of Education, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, and Nebraska schools on variety of efforts towards making schools safer and more supportive places for students and staff. [Read more.](#)

### President Gold's Video Series Shaping the Future Features Dr. Mario Scalora

A recent episode of University of Nebraska President **Jeffrey P. Gold's** "Shaping the Future" video series features **Dr. Mario Scalora**, director of the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center and professor of psychology at the



University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Dr. Scalora speaks to President Gold about his career journey, the work the Public Policy Center is conducting around threat and risk assessments, and working to keep communities across Nebraska safe. In addition to discussing his background in threat assessment, Scalora highlights the

Center's research and collaborations in the areas of threat assessment, violence prevention, and behavioral health, and the role of collaboration and partnerships in creating safer schools and communities. **Watch the full video.**

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## The PPC is Now Hiring:



### Research Coordinators

The Public Policy Center is seeking two **Research Coordinators** to join our collaborative team and assist with various public policy projects, including behavioral health, community engagement, & more.

Review of applications will begin **March 10, 2025**.

[Apply Today](#)

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## Center News

### City of Lincoln Workforce Development Partnerships Help Employees Build Skills

The **City of Lincoln** invested in workforce development with American Rescue Plan Act funds along with its partners. Beginning in 2022, the city awarded \$12 million in ARPA funding to support workforce development and training at nine Lincoln-based nonprofit



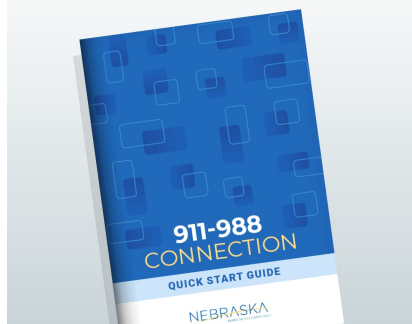
and educational organizations. The Public Policy Center evaluates program data and implementation for the city. About 870 people completed job training programs thus far, gaining new skills or finding employment in identified industries such as early childhood education, manufacturing, healthcare, and computer technology. In addition, the funding supported infrastructure and technology improvements for workforce development programs to

sustain workforce programming.

## 911/988 Transfer Guidance Aids Responders

**911-988**

QUICK START GUIDE



The Public Policy Center facilitated the group that drafted the standards guiding **Nebraska 911** centers on how to connect with and do transfers to **Nebraska's 988** crisis and suicide hotline. Additionally, our staff put together a quick start guide with the help of our partners to outline the transfer process for responders.

## Faculty Fellow Earns Service Award



Congratulations to University of Nebraska Public Policy Center faculty fellow **Dr. Eve Brank** on earning the distinguished service award from the American Psychology-Law Society for her contributions to the field of legal/forensic psychology. Dr. Brank is currently a Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Director of the Center for Children Families & the Law.

**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)

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