

February 2023

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska** PUBLIC POLICY  
CENTER



# POLICYTALK

The Latest in Public Policy  
Center News and Events

---

## Featured News



### Nebraska DHHS and Local Agencies Release Three-Year Plan to Prevent Suicide

Earlier this month, state and local agencies released a three-year plan that outlines strategies for individuals, businesses, schools, medical professionals, communities, and other agencies to prevent suicide. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide is the second leading cause of death for Nebraskans aged 10-34. **The Kim Foundation**, a statewide organization focused on suicide prevention, collaborated with the **Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services** and the **Nebraska State Suicide Prevention Coalition** to provide a framework to help Nebraskans work together to prevent suicide. Senior Research Specialist Quinn Lewandowski serves as president of the Nebraska State Suicide Coalition and assisted with the effort. **Read the full story** in the *Omaha World Herald*.

See the Nebraska Statewide Suicide Prevention Plan [here](#).

## There is Still Time to Apply to the Washington D.C. Professional Enrichment Academy



The Washington D.C. Professional Enrichment Academy (DCPEA) is a program for students who wish to enrich their already obtained D.C. summer internships. DCPEA participants meet once a week in the evenings to connect with each other and NU alumni who work in one of the world's premier capital cities. In addition to a weekly seminar, the program includes networking, guest

speakers, and mentoring. **Applications for Summer 2023 are open until April 15. [Learn more.](#)**

[Apply Today](#)

## Events

### February is Lincoln Littles Giving Month

Lincoln Community Foundation is raising funds and awareness for the important work of Lincoln

Littles during the month of February and into March. As a result of the Lincoln Vital Signs Report findings, Lincoln Littles was established as part of Prosper Lincoln's community agenda to improve early childhood education opportunities and help all families thrive in Lincoln.



Read more about this community-wide giving campaign at [LCF.org](#) and donate now through **March 20** at [LincolnLittles.org](#).

### The Public Policy Center is Hiring for Multiple Positions

Join our diverse interdisciplinary team.

Apply for our **Training and Outreach Specialist** position by **March 10, 2023**. To join our targeted violence research team as a **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**, apply by **March 31, 2023**.

Visit our [careers page](#) for more details about each



position.

## Engagement Highlight

### The Center Participates in AMPLIFY Engagement Conference



The AMPLIFY Engagement Conference was hosted by the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources - Nebraska Extension in February. During the conference's 'Campus Engagement Experience' activity, PPC presented to two

groups of participants giving them the opportunity to gain a more in-depth look at the work the Center is doing in engagement and research, as well as opportunities for further collaboration and impacts.

## Center News

### Center Researchers Participate in 2023 Midwest Symposium for Leadership in Behavior Disorders

PPC researchers presented three different posters in February at the **Midwest Symposium for Leadership in Behavior Disorders** (MSLBD) conference in Kansas City, MO.

- **"Educator Perspectives of Comprehensive School Mental Health Systems Implementation in Nebraska Public Schools"** highlights an evaluation of the School Mental Health Project, which aims to address student mental health needs through development of Comprehensive School Mental Health Systems, a model currently implemented at ESUs and schools throughout Nebraska.
- **"Meeting the Behavioral Health Needs of Young Children: Impacts of COVID-19 & How Early Childhood Providers &**

**Educators Have Responded"** examined two NUPPC studies of how early childhood educators and providers characterized children's social-emotional needs and responses to these needs.

- **"Schools with CLAS? Practitioner Insights into Monitoring and Assessing the Impact of the School Mental Health Systems on Student Health Equity"** highlighted the development of an assessment tool for evaluating the Cultural and Linguistically Appropriate Standards (CLAS) related to providing mental health services and supports in school-based environments.

## Help us Welcome Our New Students!

The Center has welcomed two new undergraduate students to our staff.

**Ruth Bailey** joined our team as an undergraduate copy editor. She is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in journalism and political science at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She plans to graduate in May of 2026.



We welcomed **Grace Charlesworth** as an undergraduate research assistant. Grace is majoring in psychology with an emphasis in neuroscience at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She plans to graduate in May of 2025 and attend graduate school for clinical psychology.

## Honorable Mentions

- Senior Research Specialist **Kurt Mantonya** led a Tabletop Emergency Operations Procedure Exercise for ESU 2 in Fremont, Nebraska, on Feb. 15. The exercise is designed to help school emergency teams think through scenarios on cybersecurity incidents, such as phishing and ransomware attacks, and a tornado affecting their community and school. Thirty-three participants from six schools brainstormed actions they might take in these scenarios through group discussion.
- U.S. Secretary of Education **Miguel Cardona**'s visit to Nebraska this month included learning about the Region 6 System of Care project with ESU 3. University of Nebraska Public Policy Center researchers **Ashley Miller** and **Dylan Saunders** compiled data for ESU 3 to share with Secretary Cardona.
- PPC faculty fellow **Mark Svoboda** and colleagues at the National Drought Mitigation Center and the UNL Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources are working with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to foster drought resilience and adaptation on a global scale. **Read more.**
- Congratulations to all the University of Nebraska-Lincoln students who made the fall semester Dean's List, including the

following Public Policy Center undergraduates: **Claire Jumper** and **Ashlyn Dickmeyer**, Nebraska College of Arts and Sciences and **Ruth Bailey**, UNL College of Journalism and Mass Communications.

## Community Resources

### Nebraska Youth Suicide Prevention

Nebraska Youth Suicide Prevention is working to decrease the suicide rate among young people by sharing resources on their website for people currently dealing with anxiety and worry. During difficult or challenging times, mental health is especially important.



Visit Our  
Website

### National Suicide Prevention Lifeline Call or Text 988

Free 24/7 confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals.

### Nebraska Family Helpline

**1-888-866-8660**

Free 24/7 confidential support for all Nebraskans.

### Rural Response Hotline

**1-800-464-0258**

(M-F from 8AM-5PM)

### 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)

### Connect with us



Public Policy Center | 215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 401, Lincoln, NE 68508

[Unsubscribe \[ppc@nebraska.edu\]\(mailto:unsubscribe\_ppc@nebraska.edu\)](mailto:unsubscribe_ppc@nebraska.edu)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [byppc@nebraska.edu](mailto:byppc@nebraska.edu) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!