

July 2024

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska PUBLIC POLICY
CENTER



POLICYTALK

The Latest in Public Policy
Center News and Events

Featured News

Crisis Counseling Project Aids Nebraskans Impacted by Recent Tornadoes



NEBRASKA STRONG
RECOVERY PROJECT



The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center is supporting the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, and Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare on a federally funded crisis counseling program for disaster behavioral health response to the April tornadoes that impacted Douglas and Washington counties. [Learn more](#) about the Nebraska

College of Journalism to Establish SMART-Lab for Social Analytics Research



The **College of Journalism and Mass Communications (University of Nebraska–Lincoln)** received a grant from the Nebraska Research Initiative to support the creation of the Social & Traditional Media Analytics and Research Tools Lab (SMART-Lab). The **University of Nebraska Public Policy Center's** Dr. Lisa PytlikZillig has worked with the team as co-project manager since the project's inception and will serve as a consultant for the project. She will also

help with organization and administration, particularly of the advisory boards, during the first two years. [Read More.](#)

Upcoming Trainings Will Focus on Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management



In partnership with the **Nebraska Education Service Unit Professional Development Organization**, Dr. Mario Scalora and Dr. Denise Bulling will lead trainings focused on behavioral threat assessment and management. The upcoming hybrid trainings will include **Level 1 Basic Threat Assessment, Level 2 Threat Communication, and Level 3 Threat Management.**

Participants must complete Level 1 Threat Assessment training in order to register for Level 2 and Level 3 trainings. [Learn More](#) about upcoming training dates.

Partner Highlight

Jen Pollock Named 2024 Mental Health Champion

Congratulations to **Jen Pollock** on being named the recipient of the 2024 School Mental Health Champion award at the Nebraska School



Mental Health Conference on May 31st. Jen has been an amazing partner to the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center on the School Mental Health project and the Region 6 Systems of Care project.

Jen Pollock serves as School Mental Health Program Coordinator at ESU #3 and has proven herself to be a true champion for all

students. Jen has long supported the overall well-being of students as a school psychologist, serving as a special education coordinator and now as a dynamic leader in the field of school mental health. Jen consistently goes above and beyond to ensure that the community has the resources and knowledge necessary to address mental health challenges effectively. Beyond her professional contributions, Jen's genuine care for teachers and students shines through in all her endeavors. She approaches her work with empathy, compassion, and a deep understanding of the complexities involved in supporting mental health in an educational setting. Jen's proactive approach and long-term vision are a testament to her enduring dedication to the well-being of students, staff, and families in the communities she serves. (Courtesy ESU 3)

Events

Great Plains ATAP Fall Training Event

Hilton (Omaha, NE)

In-Personal & Zoom:

Oct. 10 & 11, 2024

The annual **Great Plains Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (ATAP) Training Event** brings experts

from the behavioral threat assessment and management (BTAM) field. This year's event will focus on the current state of prevention and communication in behavioral threat assessment and management. Speakers include Dr. Karie Gibson, Dr. John Rozel, Dr. Mario Scalora, Andre Simons, and Dr. Lynn Van Male.

[Learn more.](#)





[Register](#)

AARP Age-Friendly Community Listening Sessions for the City of Lincoln

In Person Sessions

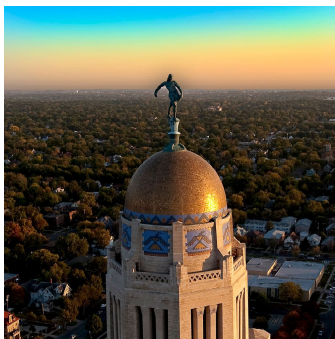
Meeting at the following locations/times:

- Capitol View Apartments August 9th, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm (Limited to residents)
- Asian Community & Cultural Center August 14th, 9:30 am – 11:00 am
- “F” Street Recreation Center, 2nd Floor Meeting Rm August 15th, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm
- El Centro de las Américas August 21st, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
- Aging Partners August 28th, 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

A series of listening sessions will be held around Lincoln to gather ideas from community members about how Lincoln can become a more age-friendly community. The sessions are presented by the City of Lincoln Aging Partners and facilitated by the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center. Participants will be provided a gift card for their time. [Learn More.](#)

Center News

Latest Lincoln Vital Signs Report Presents Data on Race Equity Trends



The **Lincoln Vital Signs Race Equity Trends Report** is now live. The report is a focus issue of Lincoln Vital Signs, which presents more in-depth data on a topic. For the purposes of this report, data is broken out and presented by race and ethnicity to highlight the diversity of our community, and to identify opportunities to increase prosperity for all Lincoln residents. [Learn more.](#)

Welcome Macy Sabo

This summer, we welcomed **Macy Sabo** as an undergraduate research assistant! Macy is pursuing a degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice with minors in National Security and Political Science at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She serves as secretary



in the Criminal Justice Student Association and is a member of Women and Underrepresented Genders in Sciences.

Welcome Katie Ullman



In June, we welcomed **Katie Ullman** as an undergraduate research assistant! Katie is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in political science at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She plans to graduate in May of 2027 and attend law school after graduation.

University of Nebraska Public Policy Center

215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 401
Lincoln, NE 68588
402.472.5678 | ppc.unl.edu

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