



# POLICYTALK

The Latest in Public Policy  
Center News and Events

March 2022

## Featured News

### Risk Assessment Workshop: Developing Clinical Expertise in Violence & Risk Assessment

**Dr. Mario Scalora** and **Dr. Lynn Van Male** are leading workshops that aim to enhance and promote statewide clinical expertise in violence risk and threat assessment in Nebraska in April. The workshops address risk assessment and management issues often in various aspects of clinical activity. April offerings include in-person workshops in Kearney (April 12) and Elkhorn (April 14), and a virtual training on April 13. [Learn more.](#)

HAPPENING IN APRIL

#### Violence Risk Assessment Workshop

Developing Clinical Expertise in Violence & Risk Assessment

FEATURING

Drs. Lynn Van Male & Mario Scalora



## Events

**20<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GREAT PLAINS  
DISASTER BEHAVIORAL  
HEALTH CONFERENCE**

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

**JULY 29, 2022**  
in Omaha, Nebraska

[disastermh.nebraska.edu](http://disastermh.nebraska.edu)

**A DAY WITH TANIA ISRAEL**

**MARCH 29, 2022**

FREE ON ZOOM

## Announcing the 2022 Great Plains Disaster Behavioral Health Conference

The **2022 Great Plains Disaster Behavioral Health Conference** is planned for July 29. We invite all psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, mental health care providers, public health officials, nurses, emergency managers, and first responders to learn how to prepare and respond to the psychological effects of disaster and mass casualty events. [Learn More.](#)



**Dish it Up** (Noon-1 p.m.)  
[Learn More](#)

**Bridging the Political Divide: Optimism for Moving Beyond Polarization** (4-5 p.m.)  
[Learn More](#)

## Partner Highlight

A longtime partner of the Public Policy Center, the Lancaster County Adult Drug Court, has been named to the exclusive list of national mentor treatment courts by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) and the U.S. Department of Justice. To celebrate the distinction of joining nine other mentor courts across the country, the Lancaster County Adult Drug Court will receive an award during a meeting of the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, April 5, 2022.



"It is a great honor to recognize this court as one of only 10 mentor courts in the country," said NADCP Chief of Training and Research Carolyn Hardin. "This program is a shining example of how a combination of accountability and treatment can save lives, reunite families, and make the community safer. As a mentor court, this program is helping to transform our justice system and leading countless people who might otherwise be incarcerated into lives of long-term recovery." [Read more.](#)

## Student Highlight



We are proud to announce that one of the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center's outstanding undergraduate research assistants, Aline Abayo, has been selected as one of 13 new Junior Fellows in a nationwide competition to intern at the Carnegie Endowment. Her project, "Effects of Changing Rainfall Patterns on Soil Nutrients and Crop

Yield," also received support from the Undergraduate Creative Activities and Research Experiences program.

**[Read more.](#)**

## Center News

### **The Washington D.C. Professional Enrichment Academy Now Accepting Applications for Summer 2022**

The **Washington D.C. Professional Enrichment Academy** connects summer internship students with prominent University of Nebraska alumni through mentoring, networking, and sharing of ideas and experiences. The Public Policy Center is working with the University of Nebraska and partners across the NU system to coordinate this program. Applications are now open for Summer 2022 for students across the University of Nebraska system. **The deadline to apply is April 15. [Read more and register here.](#)**

### **The PPC is Seeking a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow**

The Public Policy Center is currently hiring a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow to perform targeted violence research and forensic training. The fellow will assist with the development of new and ongoing research efforts and will be mentored by PPC researchers on clinical, consultation, grant writing, publishing, and other research-related activities. **Applications are due March 31, 2022. [Apply Now.](#)**

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## Honorable Mentions

- **Dr. Stacey Hoffman** will be presenting on "Collaborating for Successful Grant Writing" on March 30 as part of a panel on "Collaborating for Success" at the Housing Innovation Marketplace conference hosted by the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA), which meets March 29-30, 2022. Co-presenters include Victoria Grasso, President of the Cooper Foundation, and Kellie

Johnston Dorsey, Choice Neighborhoods Manager, City of Omaha.

- PPC undergraduate research assistant, **Bhagyalakshmi (Bhagya) Pushkaran**, has been inducted into the 118th class of The Innocents Society by the 117th class and UNL Chancellor Ronnie Green. Bhagya has exemplified her superior academic achievement, unsurpassed leadership, and selfless service to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the community, and the world.
- Congratulations to **Zachary Cheek** for being accepted into the Department of International Development at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Zack will also receive a Student Leadership Award from the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts at its annual Honors Day on Friday, April 22.

## 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 1-800-273-8255

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)

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