

December 2022



# POLICYTALK

The Latest in Public Policy  
Center News and Events



*Happy Holidays*

Warm wishes from the Public Policy Center

## Featured News



*Image of Mario Scalora and Denise Bulling from  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln 2021-22 Research Report.*

## PPC and Fellows Featured in 2021-22 Nebraska Research Report

Drs. **Mario Scalora** and **Denise Bulling** were featured in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's (UNL) annual research report for their focus on ***Avoiding School Violence Before It Starts***. They speak about the Center's work involving tipline evaluation and threat assessment training for school teams across Nebraska in a collaborative effort with **Nebraska Department of Education**. In addition to this highlight, the following NUPPC faculty fellows were also featured:

- Craig Allen and team are ***Exploring Ag, Climate Resilience Through Collaboration*** on a larger scale than ever before.
- Leen-Kiat Soh, Brittany Duncan, and their team's research on ***Easing the Transition to Four-year College*** focuses on student success through building institutional partnerships.
- Sue Sheridan and Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families and Schools colleagues have created an ***Online Program [That] Boosts Support for Rural Students***.

For additional research highlights from this year, view UNL's full **Research Report**.

## Preparing UNMC Nurses for Suicide Prevention



A UNMC nursing student-led pilot program equipped future nurses with the skills to help prevent suicides and spread information about the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. **Quinn Lewandowski** and **Mike Schiwart** recently assisted in the project and trained 77 third-semester nurses in QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) at the

**University of Nebraska Medical Center** as part of the program. The QPR training received great feedback from the nursing students and spread awareness of the 988 Lifeline throughout the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Campus.

*Conducted in collaboration with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and the UNMC Nursing Program.*

## Events

### Hiring for Multiple Positions APPLY TODAY

Join a diverse interdisciplinary research team within the PPC that engages in a variety of research and consultation activities involving



private and public sector partners. The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center (PPC) is hiring for the following positions:

- **Research Specialist I, II, or Senior Research Manager or Senior Training and Outreach Specialist**
- **Postdoctoral Research Fellow (Forensic Psychology and Targeted Violence)**
- **Graduate Research Assistant (School Mental Health and Early Childhood Education)**

Apply using the link below or visit our [careers page](#) for more details about each position.

Apply  
Today

## Project Spotlight

### 2022 Lincoln Vital Signs Community Presentations on Report's Findings Wrap-up

**Stacey Hoffman, Alyssa Sloane, and Taylor Smith** have presented the findings from the 2022 Lincoln Vital Signs Report to about twenty community organizations.

Overall, findings indicate that:

- Lincoln continues to thrive in several areas.
- Some areas of weakness persist.
- Population trends will shape future need for services and initiatives.



A special issue focusing on diversity and inclusion will be released coming up in 2023. [View the 2022 report.](#)

## Center News

### Drones Using Fire to Reduce Wildfires

"We can reduce these huge wildfires by using more fire, when it's safe to do so," said **Carrick Detweiler**, a PPC faculty fellow and founder/CEO of Drone Amplified, in a recent CNN article. Carrick and team are utilizing drones to conduct prescribed burns which prove to be the most effective method of preventing wildfires. [Learn more.](#)



## Twidwell's Research Featured in TV Program

Invasive trees are contending with the Great Plains grasslands bringing efforts to sustain the grasslands to the forefront. Featured on "Cattlemen to Cattlemen," produced by National Cattlemen's Beef Association, on RFD-TV, **Dirac Twidwell** along with his colleague, Dillon Fogarty, discuss their recently published guidebook to sustain the grasslands against the invasive eastern redcedar tree species. [See NE Today story.](#)



## Honorable Mentions

- The Center collaborated with Civic Nebraska to assist with their "Crossing Divides" listening project, which aims to build understanding of Nebraskans' views around news, media, and civil discourse. After reviewing transcripts of interviews conducted by Civic Nebraska, **Alyssa Sloane** compiled findings into a final report to help identify common themes which will inform future community conversations conducted by Civic Nebraska. [Learn more.](#)
- Administrative Support Associate **Catherine Wilkins** graduated from Wayne State College this month with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Human Resource Management.



## Community Resources

### Nebraska Youth Suicide Prevention

**Nebraska Youth Suicide Prevention** is working to decrease the suicide rate among young people by sharing resources

**National Suicide Prevention Lifeline**  
Call or Text 988

on their website for people currently dealing with anxiety and worry. During difficult or challenging times, mental health is especially important.



Visit Our  
Website

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)

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

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