

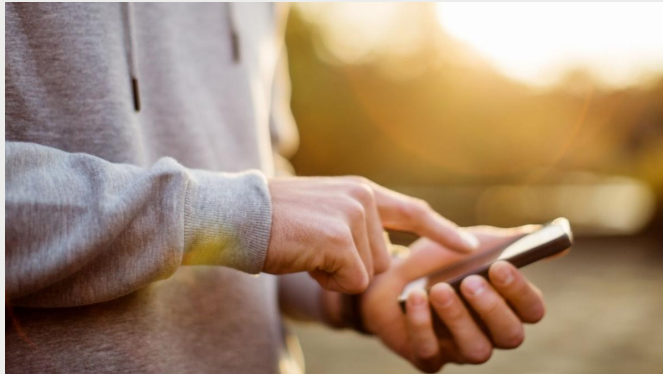


POLICYTALK

The Latest in Public Policy
Center News and Events

February 2022

Featured News



\$1.28 Million Grant an Integral Part of Nebraska's Anonymous Reporting System

An app to anonymously report concerns about school safety became available Sept. 1 to all Nebraska schools who opt in, and now a grant will pay for an evaluation of Safe2HelpNE. "With all the tragedies that occur, it seems every year, this is not a problem that is going away," Mike Dulaney, executive director of the Nebraska Council of School Administrators said. "Student mental health is an ongoing issue. We're not doing enough, but this is one step."

The \$1.28 million grant from the U.S. Department of Justice could be key to winning future support for the system that can be used by students, teachers, and others to report

Events

PEER SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION
for Peer Support Supervisors and Peer Support Specialists
FREE ON ZOOM



Peer Support Documentation: Discussion Hour
Feb. 23rd, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Central)
Learn More

Join Millie Sweeney as she focuses on identifying improvements and challenges encountered by the peer support provider and supervisor trainings in best practices and strategies for quality documentation.

Register Today

concerns about someone planning to harm themselves, other people, or buildings. **See the full article here.**



NE State Suicide Prevention Coalition Announces New App to Help Prevent Youth Suicide

A new app called My Companion aims to reduce youth suicides. University of Nebraska Public Policy Center Senior Research Specialist Quinn Lewandowski, who serves as the current president of the Nebraska State Suicide Prevention Coalition, helped develop the app with partners at Bryan Health, The Kim Foundation, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, and Boys Town National Hotline. **Learn more.**

WASHINGTON D.C. PROFESSIONAL ENRICHMENT ACADEMY *Information Session*

FREE ON ZOOM



An informational session on the Washington D.C. Professional Enrichment Academy will be held via Zoom from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. (CST) on Tuesday, March 1, 2022. Learn more about the academy at **go.unl.edu/NUinDC**

Join the webinar on
Zoom

Student Highlight



POLICY SCHOLARS

This month, the PPC welcomed our first class of Policy Scholars, undergraduate students selected for their desire to increase their knowledge, skills, and awareness in policy and research. One of our goals as a Center is to spark students' interest in policy-based work by creating a learning experience and providing a variety of professional and career opportunities in policy and research, in order to help students become more engaged and confident about their place in policy and research. This semester, we welcome **Jenna Prochnau, Claire Jumper, Will Green, and Brandon Collins** to our Policy Scholars program. Each student has been paired with a mentor who will provide a space for them to learn and grow by attending weekly mentoring sessions, group sessions, and project meetings related to their areas of interest. We are excited to welcome this group into the Center and look forward to sharing future highlights about our Policy Scholars.

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.](#)**

Webinar Aims to Help Communities Recover After a Disaster

A free webinar on February 25 aims to help community leaders and Extension Educators consider effective methods of recovering after a disaster. Guest panelists include: Angela Denton, Community Leader,

Honorable Mentions

- **Dr. Mario Scalora** and **Dr. Denise Bulling** recently presented at the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals Winter Conference in Orlando, FL. Dr. Scalora spoke about managing surges of harassing and threatening activities, and Dr. Bulling spoke about pandemic volatility impacts on threat assessment and management.
- Faculty Fellow **Dirac Twidwell** received additional funding for his statewide assessment of "Juniper Invasions and Landscape Intervention Potential."
- This year's **Glow Big Red** fundraising effort for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has raised over \$598,000 and 4,935 gifts.
- The Lincoln Community Foundation's annual **Lincoln Littles Giving Day** to help more children receive a quality early childhood education raised over \$670,000 in support of **Prosper Lincoln**. An initiative that grew out of the PPC's Lincoln Vital Signs project, Prosper Lincoln aims to promote early childhood, employment skills, and innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Congratulations to our undergraduate student assistants on making the Dean's List for the fall semester at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. **Maria Kohel** is a senior in the College of Business, **Sophie Brendel** is a junior in the College of Arts and Sciences and College of Business, **Megan Buffington** is a senior in the College of Journalism and Mass Communications, **Ashlyn Dickmeyer** is a junior in the College of Arts and Sciences, and **Ellie Woody** is a senior in the College of Arts and Sciences.

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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