

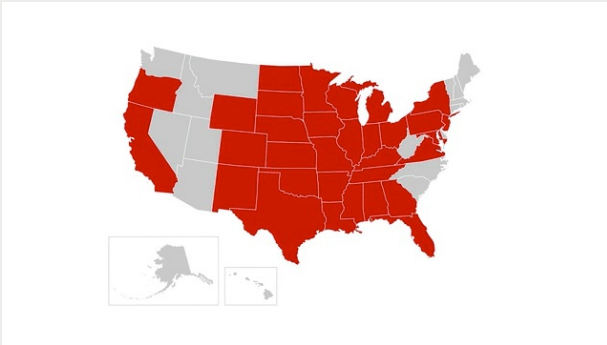


# POLICYTALK

The Latest in Public Policy  
Center News and Events

**JANUARY 2022**

## Featured News



## Highlights of 2021

In 2021, the Public Policy Center (PPC) has impacted thousands of people around Nebraska. PPC's efforts were aimed at improving community support and outreach through disaster recovery, behavioral health services, public health programs, suicide prevention, and K-12 school safety and emergency planning. A few highlights include:

- Training nearly 14,000 educators in suicide prevention
- 980 school safety team members from 230 schools trained in emergency operations planning
- Partnering with Nebraska DHHS on the SAMHSA Nebraska Disaster Recovery Adults Project to make 9,100 crisis counseling contacts and distribute 66,192 project materials as of June 30

## Events

**PEER SUPPORT  
DOCUMENTATION**  
*for Peer Support Supervisors*  
FREE ON ZOOM



**Best Practices & Strategies  
for Supporting a Growing  
Workforce:**  
**Feb. 3rd, 10 a.m. – 11:30  
a.m. (Central)**  
**Learn More.**

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

Join Millie Sweeney in a discussion on best practices for supervisors in supporting this important skill and strategies for encouraging consistent, timely, and quality documentation.

See the full article and video [here](#).

Register  
Today



## LINCOLN LITTLES DAY

Wed., Feb. 9, 2022



## CBS News Report on Safety Threats Features PPC's Director

**CBS News** spoke with University of Nebraska Public Policy Center director **Dr. Mario Scalora**, an expert in threat assessment and violence prevention and a Professor of Psychology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, about the current threat landscape for members of congress and other public figures. [Learn more.](#)

On Wednesday, February 9, the **Lincoln Community Foundation** will host the fourth annual Lincoln Littles Giving Day. This one special giving day, inspired by **Prosper Lincoln**, gives our community the opportunity to help more children have quality early childhood education. Go to [LincolnLittles.org](#) and give to our little ones.

## Partner Highlight

### Alec Gorynski Begins as Lincoln Community Foundation's President/CEO



After Barbara Bartle's retirement at the end of December as President/CEO of the Lincoln Community Foundation (LCF), a new leader, Alec Gorynski, has taken up the mantle. He has more than 15 years of experience working across private, nonprofit, and government sectors. Alec has also been a grantmaker and involved in housing initiatives in Omaha and Lincoln. "You can expect me to be immersed in the community to better understand the important role the Foundation has to play in Lincoln's future." said Alec Gorynski.

[Read Alec's message as LCF's new president](#) or read the full article to [learn more.](#)

## Center News

### The Washington D.C. Professional Enrichment Academy Now Open for Applications



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.](#)**

Apply  
Today

### Virtual Behavioral Health Trainings Success Continues at the Center with Nebraska DHHS

**NEBRASKA**

Good Life. Great Mission.

Since its start in 2020, the Center has been working closely with the **Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services** Division of Behavioral Health providing access to quality behavioral health trainings on topics such as health equity, recovery, ethics, telehealth, and more for many Nebraska providers. With more than 20 training sessions on record with an average attendance above 100 participants, this collaboration continues with more trainings in the works. **[View past and upcoming behavioral health trainings.](#)**

### Remembering Anna W. Shavers



**Anna W. Shavers**, Cline Williams Professor of Citizenship Law, associate dean for diversity and inclusion in the College of Law, and a longtime partner of the PPC passed away on Jan. 22. We are deeply saddened and mourn the loss of such a generous and dedicated colleague. Anna will be deeply missed for the wide-ranging impact she has had within the university and the community. **[Read More about Anna](#)** or see **[the tributes written by her colleagues.](#)**

## Honorable Mentions

- **Dr. Denise Bulling** recently completed an interactive session on de-escalation with a group of charge nurses at CHI Health St. Elizabeth. **Dr. Mario Scalora** served as a co-presenter.
- Faculty Fellow, **Craig Allen** (director of CRAWL), co-authored a recent published book, *Food, Energy, and Water Nexus: A Consideration for the 21st Century*, with several Nebraska researchers. **Learn more.**
- It was recently announced that **Craig Allen** is listed on a patent for a firefighting drone. Allen worked on the project developing IGNIS with agronomy professor Dirac Twidwell, computer science professors Sebastian Elbaum and **Carrick Detweiler** (another PPC faculty fellow), and former Nebraska students Christian Laney, James Higgins, and Evan Michael Beachly. **Learn more.**

## 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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