

July 2023

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska | PUBLIC POLICY
CENTER



POLICYTALK

The Latest in Public Policy
Center News and Events

Featured News

National Threat Evaluation and Reporting Office Visit Focuses on Behavioral Threat Assessment



This summer, Dr. Mario Scalora and Dr. Denise Bulling of the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center hosted National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology, and Education Center (NCITE) staff and faculty and officials from the Department of Homeland Security's National Threat Evaluation and Reporting Office (NTER). The group visited the Public Policy Center and toured Memorial Stadium in Lincoln as part of a three-day visit to NCITE to share capabilities—and challenges. According to NCITE, NTER is seeking to further its mission of bolstering federal, state, and local capacity to identify and mitigate threats by boosting its own operational research and creating new training and resources for its partners. [**Read More.**](#)

Nebraska Pilot Project Aims to Build Trustworthiness of Courts & Public Trust Through Community Engagement



The **National Center for State Courts** sought proposals from states for pilot projects to address disparities in trust in the courts. Nebraska's proposal was among six selected as a pilot engagement project. All the pilot grantees worked with the **University of Nebraska Public Policy Center's** Dr. Lisa PytlikZillig to develop their programs and include an evaluation component. The goal of the initiative: to get closer to disadvantaged communities

to help court officials find out what issues undermine the communities' trust in courts. Visit ncsc.org/engage to learn about the ENGAGE! Toolkit, which was created via a collaboration involving the National Center for State Courts, the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center, researchers from Michigan State University, and six "pilot" teams. [Read More.](#)

Partner Highlight

Community Crops Offering Free Gardening Classes in Lincoln this Summer



Community Crops is a non-profit organization providing education, advocacy, and experiences to grow local food in Lincoln. The PPC is helping to evaluate their efforts. They are offering **FREE** Urban Grower Classes in

July and August. Classes meet in-person and include the following offerings: **Water Conservation in the Garden** (July 18, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.); **Growing Fruits, Nuts & Berries in Nebraska** (July 22, 9:00 -11:00 a.m.); **Extend Your Growing Season into Late Fall & Early Winter** (Aug. 1, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.); and **Make Your Own Compost** (Aug. 12, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.) in Lincoln, Nebraska.

[Learn More & Register.](#)

Events

2023 Nebraska Disaster Behavioral Health Training

FREE VIRTUAL TRAINING
July 27, 2023



The free virtual event will provide an overview of Psychological First Aid for Schools. The speaker, Sally Carlson, has an MA and Educational Specialist degree. It has been approved for 1.25 continuing education credits for psychologists and is sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services and the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center.

[Register Today](#)

Great Plains Association of Threat Assessment Professionals Training Event

VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON TRAINING
Friday, October 20, 2023



Great Plains
CHAPTER

The 2023 Association of Threat Assessment Professionals Great Plains Chapter training event will focus on preventing targeted violence in diverse environments. Speakers include Dr. Wendy Patrick, Dr. Stephanie Leite, Joe Wright, Dr. James Cawood, and Patrick Prince. The event will be held virtually and in-person from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at **Embassy Suites** in Lincoln, NE. [Learn More.](#)

Presented by the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals Great Plains Chapter.

[Register Today](#)

Lincoln Vital Signs Data Walk to be Held July 26

IN-PERSON EVENT - WALK-INS WELCOME

July 26, 2023



The Public Policy Center and the Lincoln Community Foundation will be conducting an interactive data walk event to share and gather community feedback on key data about the Lincoln Community. The data walk is scheduled **from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.** at the F Street Community Center. **[Learn More](#)**

In Other News

988 Helpline Celebrates 1 Year Anniversary



This month marks the one-year anniversary of the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, which launched in July 2022. The lifeline has answered nearly 5 million calls, texts, and chats from individuals seeking assistance with suicide, mental health, and substance use related emergencies since its launch in July 2022. Recently, the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline introduced Spanish text and chat services, as well as tailored support for LGBTQI+ youth and young adults. For more about 988 Lifeline's first year: **[visit SAMHSA.gov](https://www.samhsa.gov)**.

Student Spotlight



This summer we welcome Morgan Gaspar as a new undergraduate research assistant. Originally from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Morgan is interested in biology, psychology, and political science. Morgan is currently majoring in Political Science and Economics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She served as a PPC Policy Scholar during the Spring of 2023 and was part of the Roadmap Scholars Initiative at the University of Virginia School of Law. She is looking forward to preparing for law school and a future career as a lawyer.

Community Resources

Nebraska Youth Suicide Prevention
Nebraska Youth Suicide Prevention is

**National Suicide
Prevention Lifeline**

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**

Call or Text 988

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

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

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