

POLICY TALK

The Latest in Public Policy Center News and Events



Featured News

Public Policy Center Launches Project for Long-Term Care Providers



As Nebraska slowly rolls out coronavirus vaccinations across the state, a new project aims to address the mental health of the people who have spent months protecting the state's most vulnerable: staffers at nursing homes and other long-term care facilities. "We really recognize the incredible stress our long-term care facilities are

undergoing—they're dealing with a highly contagious virus that is deadly to the population they serve," said Quinn Lewandowski, a research specialist at the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center. The Public Policy Center is partnering with the Nebraska Department

of Health and Human Services on a \$174,000 federal grant aimed at decreasing risks from long-term care job stress, which can include burnout, anxiety, depression, use of alcohol or drugs to cope, and thoughts of suicide. Other partners include Leading Age Nebraska, an association of 70 non-profit providers of long-term care, and the University of Nebraska Medical Center, which already had a coordinator touching base with leaders of long-term care facilities. Read the full story in [Nebraska Today](#), [KLIN](#), [Newsbreak](#) and the [Sydney Sun Telegraph](#).

Civic Index Shows How Nebraska Fares in Key Indicators of Civic Health



The 2020 **Nebraska Civic Health Index** shows that Nebraska is a national leader in spending time with neighbors, family, and friends, in volunteering and working with neighbors to achieve something positive, and in voting in local elections. This report is a unified project of the Nebraska Civic Health Partnership, dedicated to addressing and strengthening civic health and education in

Nebraska. Partners include Civic Nebraska and the National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC). Contributors to the report include the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center, UNMC College of Public Health, UNMC Center for Reducing Health Disparities, Nebraska Extension, Iowa West Foundation, and UNO Center for Public Affairs Research. Explore the four key indicators of civic health (social connectedness, confidence in institutions, community engagement, and political involvement): www.civicnebraska.org.

Collaborative Group Testifies Before Nebraska Legislature Education Committee



University of Nebraska Public Policy Center Director Dr. Mario Scalora and Nebraska Department of Education Director of School Safety and Security Dr. Jolene Palmer are part of a collaborative group who spoke to the Nebraska Legislature education committee on February 9 to discuss a reporting system offering K-12 students and school community members several mechanisms to anonymously communicate with highly trained crisis workers about concerning behaviors (like comments about

suicide, cyber bullying, or threats). The committee is considering Sen. Matt Williams' bill (AM-282/LB-322), which would require the Nebraska Department of Education to set up a statewide Safe2HelpNE reporting line. "There really was a universal effort to put this bill together," said Mike Dulaney of the Nebraska Council of School Administrators. "This is one of those times we're all coming together, and we feel it's an important piece." Read more in the [Journal Star](#).

Follow us to see the latest news and events.



Spotlight of the Month

Lincoln Community Foundation Part of Coordinated Effort to Combat Systemic Racism

The Lincoln Community Foundation (LCF) is one of seven community foundations chosen to participate in the Nexus for Equity + Opportunity Nationwide (NEON), a group which aims to address systematic racism. This cohort will work together by committing to common strategies and metrics measuring meaningful outcomes for residents. The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center supports LCF's work by providing data analysis and strategic consultation for [Prosper Lincoln](#) and [Lincoln Vital Signs](#).



Next Time: the next issue of Policy Talk will include a new spotlight feature about an ongoing project.

Upcoming Events

Ethical and Risk Management Issues in Peer Support Services for Certified Peer Support Specialists

This training, presented by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Division of Behavioral Health Office of Consumer Affairs and the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center, will feature Dr.

Frederic Reamer speaking on "Ethical and Risk Management Issues for Peer Support Services for Certified Peer Support Specialists." This training will explore compelling ethical and risk management challenges associated with peer support services. Dr. Reamer will discuss ethical issues and practical strategies designed to protect clients and practitioners.



Location: Zoom Meeting

Date/Time: Tues., March 9, 9:00am-12:15pm CDT

Application has been made for 3.0 Ethics hours towards CPSS certification. Participants must attend the entire training to receive continuing education hours.

Register today at go.unl.edu/peersupport-services-cpss.

The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center (NUPPC) is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The NUPPC maintains responsibility for this program and its content. This training is funded in whole or in part by funds from the SAMHSA Community Mental Health Block Grant, SAMHSA Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment Block Grant and state funds sub-granted from the Nebraska Department of Health and Services, Division of Behavioral Health.

**Register
Today**

The Value and Use of Peer Support Within the Behavioral Health System

This training, presented by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Division of Behavioral Health Office of Consumer Affairs and the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center, will feature Dr. Patrick Hendry speaking on "The Value and Use of Peer Support Within the Behavioral Health System." This 90-minute workshop will show Nebraska behavioral health providers how to champion the introduction of peer support into new and existing services by addressing key areas of importance.



Location: Zoom Meeting

Date/Time: Wed., March 10, 10:00am-11:30am CDT

An application has been made for 1.5 APA and Nebraska LADC continuing education hours. Participants must attend the entire training to be eligible for continuing education hours.

Register today at go.unl.edu/value-peersupport.

The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center (NUPPC) is approved by the American

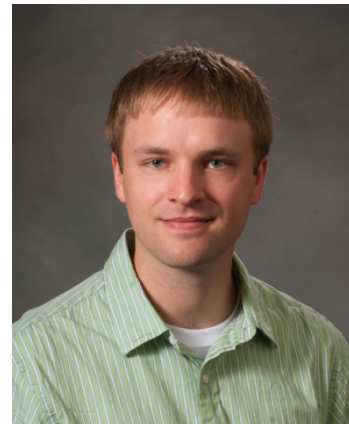
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Center News

Faculty Fellow Becomes Second Husker Elected as Senior Member of the National Academy of Inventors

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln’s Carrick Detweiler has been elected a senior member of the National Academy of Inventors. NAI’s Senior Member program recognizes early-stage innovators and inventors whose success in patents, licensing, and commercialization has the potential to positively impact the welfare of society. Senior members are rising leaders in their fields whose work has gained momentum toward significant achievement in innovation. Each member holds a U.S. patent that has been licensed or commercialized and/or five or more issued U.S. patents.



Detweiler, a faculty fellow at the PPC and a Susan J. Rosowski Associate Professor of computer science and engineering at UNL, is the second Husker to receive the honor since the NAI established the program in 2018. Read the full story in [Nebraska Today](#).

Faculty Fellow Named Editor of Ecology & Society



Dr. Craig Allen has accepted the role of editor of *Ecology & Society*, a journal of integrated science for resilience and sustainability. Dr. Allen is a professor in the School of Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, director of the Center for Resilience in Agricultural Working Landscapes, and a faculty fellow at the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center. Read more about Dr. Allen on [the PPC website](#) or on his [UNL faculty page](#).

2020-21 Dean's List Recipients at the PPC

Congratulations to all four of our current undergraduate research assistants and student

interns on making the 2020-21 Dean's List at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln!

- Cole Shardelow, senior, Nebraska College of Arts and Sciences, philosophy.
- Aline Abayo, junior, UNL College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, integrated science.
- Zack Cheek, junior, Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts music.
- Maria Faye Kohel, junior, Nebraska College of Business, accounting.



We are Hiring a Postdoctoral Research Fellow

The Public Policy Center is now hiring a postdoctoral research fellow in forensic psychology and targeted violence to perform targeted violence research (e.g., threat assessment, workplace violence, stalking, extremist violence) and forensic training. The fellowship is a non-tenure leading, two-year appointment. The goal of the fellowship will be to develop advanced clinical, research, and consultation skills to address various areas of targeted violence and assist with the development of new research efforts. The postdoctoral fellow will join a diverse research interdisciplinary team within the PPC that engages in a variety of research and consultation activities involving private and public sector partners. Interested applicants should **apply by March 15.** [Apply at unl.edu/jobs.](https://unl.edu/jobs)



Community Resources

Nebraska Youth Suicide Prevention and the Nebraska Suicide Prevention Lifeline

Nebraska Youth Suicide Prevention is working to decrease the suicide rate among young people by sharing resources on their [website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) for people currently dealing with anxiety and worry. During difficult or challenging times, mental health is especially important. **Individuals needing help can contact the Nebraska Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255.** The lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention, and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals.

Nebraska Rural Response Helpline and Nebraska Family Helpline Provide Help During COVID

The **Nebraska Strong Recovery Project** is working to help those

affected by the COVID-19 pandemic by sharing resources on the **Nebraska Strong website**, **Facebook**, and **Twitter**. **Individuals in need of help can contact the Rural Response Hotline at 1-800-464-0258** (M-F from 8AM-5PM) or the **Nebraska Family Helpline at 1-888-866-8660** (24 Hours/Day, 7 Days/Week). The hotlines provide free and confidential support for all Nebraskans experiencing difficulty during the events surrounding COVID-19.



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Our mission is to link policy with research, process & practice.

We team with policymakers & other stakeholders to actively inform public policy & put knowledge into action.



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