

May 2023

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska | PUBLIC POLICY
CENTER



POLICYTALK

The Latest in Public Policy
Center News and Events

Featured News

Policy Center Conducts Data Walks to Gain Community Feedback on Lincoln Data



The **Public Policy Center** and the **Lincoln Community Foundation** conducted interactive data walk events to share and gather community feedback on key data about the Lincoln Community. Dr. Stacey Hoffman leads the Lincoln Vital Signs team while Dr. Janell Walther provides strategic consultation and engagement for Prosper Lincoln. The data walks included a series of in-person events facilitated by PPC staff to gather feedback and insights from participants. Community residents and key stakeholders were invited to participate. Key data was displayed on large posters at each session, and facilitators were stationed at each poster to explain the data, answer questions, engage

participants, and take notes on discussions. Insights from these data walks will help inform an upcoming special issue of Lincoln Vital Signs focusing on race equity in Lincoln. **Learn More about Lincoln Vital Signs.**

2023 Class of Policy Scholars Gain Policy Research Experience & Research Knowledge Through Mentorship



With the **2023 class of Policy Scholars**, the Public Policy Center welcomed 11 undergraduate students wanting to increase their knowledge, skills, and awareness in policy and research. The program aims to spark students' interest in policy-based work by creating a learning environment where students can be paired with a mentor and experience a variety of professional and career opportunities in policy and research. **Learn More.**

2023 POLICY SCHOLARS

"It was an absolute privilege to mentor Rhiannan throughout the past semester, witnessing her incredible journey towards personal and professional growth. Together, we focused on honing her networking skills and shaping her vision as a young professional. Guiding her through the intricate process of graduate school applications was both fulfilling and rewarding."

-Quinn Lewandowski, Sr. Research Specialist

Events

Emergency Operations Planning FREE VIRTUAL EVENTS



Kurt Mantonya
June 13 & 15, 2023

Tips and Tricks for Working with Children and Youth in Mental Health

FREE IN-PERSON EVENT



Kurt Mantonya will be conducting virtual tabletop exercises on Emergency Operations Planning (EOP) for the following scenarios:

- **Bus Accident**
June 13, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
- **Bank Robbery Near a Track Meet**
June 13, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
- **Cybersecurity Breach**
June 15, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
- **Tornado Incident**
June 15, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

**Register
Today**

Dr. Cate Jones-Hazledine and Jennifer Jackson

June 12, 2023

8 a.m. to 12 p.m. (Mountain)
Gering, NE

Learn More

The purpose of this in-person training is to grow the number of Nebraska-licensed behavioral health providers providing services to children and youth.

**Register
Today**

Nebraska Disaster Behavioral Health Training

VIRTUAL TRAINING & EXERCISE

July 26 & 27 on Zoom



SAVE THE DATE!

This virtual event will focus on how to recognize, prepare for, and respond to the psychological effects of disaster and mass casualty events.

*Presented by the University of Nebraska
Public Policy Center and the Nebraska
Department of Health and Human Services.*

Project Highlight

DHHS Training Still in Full Swing After Three Years of Success

Over the past three years, Nebraska mental health professionals and practitioners have been attending regularly scheduled behavioral health training sessions covering topics such as psychology, substance use, criminal justice, health



equity, and more. A partnership with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Division of Behavioral Health and the Public Policy Center, it has resulted in over 28 live, virtual training sessions with many behavioral health professionals in attendance across the state. Thanks to this success, another year of trainings will be starting soon.

Learn more.

Nebraska Schools Receive Posters Promoting Helpline

The Nebraska Department of Education and Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services partnered with the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center to create and distribute informational posters highlighting the 988 Suicide & Crisis helpline. Nebraskans can call, text, or chat with trained crisis counselors if they or someone they know needs support. The 988 posters have been printed and shared with all public and private middle and high schools across Nebraska and made available for download to the public on various partner websites, including the **Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services**.

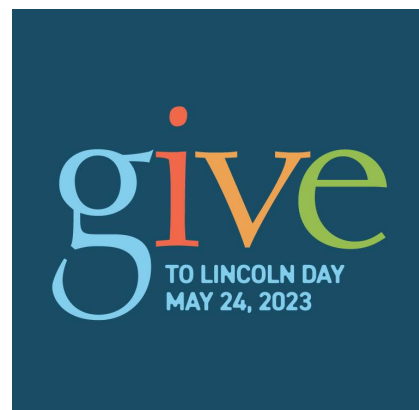


Give to Lincoln Day is May 24

Lincoln's One Big Day of Giving is today! The 12th annual Give to Lincoln Day ends Wednesday, May 24th, and giving is open until 11:59 p.m. tonight. Support local nonprofits online at **www.GiveToLincoln.com**.

Donations may also be dropped off in-person at Presenting Sponsor, West Gate Bank Lincoln locations via the lobby or commercial drop box. Checks can be made out to the Lincoln Community Foundation with the nonprofit(s) you're donating to written in the memo line or in an attached document.

Learn more.



Congratulations!

Class of 2023 graduates



Congratulations Spring 2023 Graduates!

Congratulations to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Spring 2023 graduates! This includes our very own undergraduate research assistants, Bhagya Pushkaran, Ashlyn Dickmeyer, and Claire Jumper.

Honorable Mentions

- **Kurt Mantonya** conducted Psychological First Aid Training for disasters for 23 individuals and led a training of trainers with Dr. Kate Speck for 10 participants in Grand Island, NE. The trainings are co-sponsored by Region 3 Behavioral Health and the Grand Island Hall County Emergency Management.
- **Dr. Jennifer Farley** earned recognition from UNL's Office of Research and Economic Development as a recipient of a top sponsored award for March 2023. Dr. Farley is the principal investigator of a \$300,000 award to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, which focuses on Expansion of Childhood Behavioral Health.
- **Quinn Lewandowski** spoke on Nebraska's impactful journey in implementing a comprehensive suicide prevention approach at the American Association of Suicidology (AAS) Conference in April. The session focused on the Nebraska SAMHSA Garrett Lee Smith youth suicide prevention program, offering valuable insights and lessons learned from four years of dedicated programming. Quinn's expertise shed light on the significance of their efforts and the transformative impact they've made in tackling this critical issue.
- **Ashley Miller** presented a poster on Operational Responses of U.S. National Suicide Prevention Lifeline Call Centers to COVID-19 at the (AAS) Annual Conference in Portland, OR.
- On April 13, the director of the National Drought Mitigation Center and a Public Policy Center faculty fellow, **Mark Svoboda**, was interviewed by the Associated Press about a new study showing that climate change is making droughts. Over 200 media outlets picked up this story. **Read the AP article.**

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 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

Connect with us



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

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