

October 2023 - Special Anniversary Issue



# POLICYTALK

The Latest in Public Policy  
Center News and Events

## Featured News

### Public Policy Center Marks 25 Years

CELEBRATING  
**25 YEARS**



For **25 Years** the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center has provided a unique opportunity for policymakers and researchers to work together to address the challenges of local, state, and federal policy and bring about real-world solutions. A lot has changed since our founding in 1998, and we couldn't be more excited for the future. Check out the latest **Nebraska Today article** to learn more about the Center's history and recent impacts in Nebraska and beyond.

Join us for an open house at our office on **October 26**. We look forward to seeing many of our current partners, collaborators, and friends to mark this milestone. Refreshments will be served from **3:00 to 6:00 p.m. (Central)** at 215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 401 in Lincoln, NE.

## What We've Been Up To Lately...



### Suicide Prevention

Suicide prevention and working with schools and community members to reduce rates of suicide by promoting prevention and postvention policies with trainings, educational materials, marketing campaigns, and handbooks for schools. [Learn More](#)



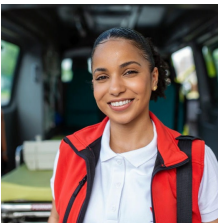
### School Safety & Preparedness

Keeping students, teachers, staff, and the school communities safe by providing emergency planning and threat assessment training for schools, while promoting avenues for reporting safety concerns. [Learn More](#)



### Public Safety & Threat Assessment

Threat assessment and violence prevention training for clinicians and threat assessment teams (including threat assessment consultation, evaluations, and training opportunities). [Learn More](#)



### Disaster Behavioral Health Planning & Response

Foster disaster behavioral health preparedness, training and response (for behavioral health professionals, first responders, and community members) with trainings, resources, and annual exercises. [Learn More](#)



### Behavioral Health & Substance Use Services

Foster links between mental health and substance use disorder resources with public health systems, healthcare networks, emergency management, and first responder groups. [Learn More](#)



### School Mental Health

Address the need for mental health support in schools by enhancing educators' ability to identify and respond to mental health needs and support professional development such as psychological first aid for schools. [Learn More](#)

### Community Engagement



Community engagement and partnerships to spur community improvement. These efforts include data collection and analysis, focus groups, and public dialogue to develop strategies and solutions to issues facing our community. [Learn More](#)



### Public Health

Public health and wellness across Nebraska through improving emergency response, healthcare access, increased support for pregnant or parenting families, and more. [Learn More](#)

## 25th Anniversary Highlights Reel

### Our Impacts in Nebraska and Beyond...

**25<sup>th</sup>**  
anniversary

**The Public Policy Center is Celebrating 25 Years**

Working with policymakers and researchers to address challenges of local, state, and federal policy.

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska** | PUBLIC POLICY  
CENTER

This video gives an overview of some of the work and impacts of the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center, including the scope of our impacts and some recent partnerships and projects.

## Staff Spotlight: Jenn Heetderks

"I've been at the PPC since it began in July 1998 (so all 25 years!). My role here has grown and changed over the years. I started out fresh from graduation at UNL as a Clerical Assistant, helping the PPC's inaugural director in setting up the Center and doing basic administrative assistance



tasks. I was able to take on more and more responsibilities as the center (and I) grew. While I've been involved in most aspects the business operations of the PPC over the years, I currently focus on grant and contract post-award activities (so working with closely with project managers/staff after project's grants/contracts have been awarded to get any necessary contracts and subwards in place; monitoring budgets/spending; financial reporting, ensuring we're following grant requirements, etc.).

Working at the PPC has been very rewarding. I take a lot of pride in my work and this Center. At this point I've spend over half my life working here. It's 'home' to me."

**—Jenn Heetderks, Grants and Contracts Specialist**

## Staff Spotlight: Stacey Hoffman



"In the 20 years that I have been [with the PPC], I have witnessed tremendous growth in the breadth of systems our projects impact. We now touch on a variety of policy areas related to the content expertise of our researchers, including several public health topics, suicide prevention, school mental health, violence prevention, community planning, and other topics."

**—Dr. Stacey Hoffman, Senior Research Manager**

### University of Nebraska Public Policy Center

215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 401  
Lincoln, NE 68588  
402.472.5678 | [ppc.unl.edu](http://ppc.unl.edu)

### Connect with us



Notice

Sent byppc@nebraska.edupowered by



Try email marketing for free today!