

September 2023

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska | PUBLIC POLICY
CENTER



POLICYTALK

The Latest in Public Policy
Center News and Events

Featured News

Public Policy Center Marks 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. Some areas where we focus our efforts include: suicide prevention, school safety and mental health, public safety, behavioral health and substance use services, disaster behavioral health planning and response, public health, and community engagement.

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.

University Partnership Working to Enhance Student Mental Health Services



Partnering with the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, and regional service providers, the Public Policy Center is helping schools across the state take advantage of millions in federal grant funds to better respond to students' mental health needs. This may provide all students with the opportunity to work with teachers and counselors to develop skills for emotional management or peer social skills. Students with greater needs may be invited to join small groups that focus on building a specific skill, or participate in one-on-one meetings with a licensed mental health clinician. Overall, school staff are adopting unique approaches that best fit their school and support relationship building to identify student needs and connect them with the appropriate supports.

"Mental health is at the forefront of everyone's mind. Teachers want to understand how they can help students be successful. They're willing to put the work in. They see the benefit of this," says Amber Hartsock, NDE's state coordinator for school mental health efforts. [Read more.](#)

Collaboration Highlight

Attending Governor's Proclamation: September

as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month



Researchers from the Public Policy Center stood shoulder-to-shoulder with numerous organizations, united in the mission to prevent suicide. Earlier this month, Governor Jim Pillen signed a proclamation of September as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. The annual event highlights groups who are committed to suicide prevention.

Across fourteen organizations, 22 representatives attended to send a powerful message: We're here for you! We're committed to listening, supporting, and taking action. Suicide is a complex issue, but together, we're taking steps toward mental well-being as a united community. **Read more.**

Events

The Adolescent Brain, Behaviors, & Substance Use

FREE VIRTUAL TRAINING

Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2023

Great Plains Association of Threat Assessment Professionals Training Event

VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON TRAINING

Friday, Oct. 20, 2023



Great Plains CHAPTER

This free virtual training will provide information on the relationships between adolescent substance use and behaviors. The speaker, Dr. Alex Wallace, has his PhD in clinical neuropsychology. The training has been approved for 2.5 continuing education credits for psychologists. The event will be held from **10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Central)** on Zoom.

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

**Register
Today**

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**



NCSA
**Nebraska Council of
School Administrators**

Nebraska School Safety and Security Summit

IN-PERSON EVENT

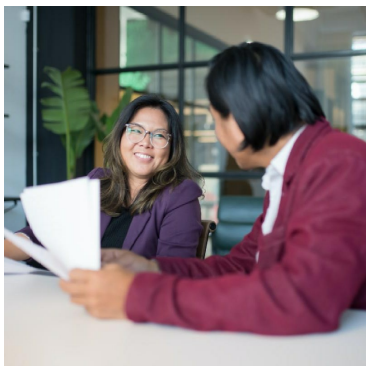
October 19, 2023

The Nebraska Council of School Administrators, in partnership with the Nebraska Department of Education, University of Nebraska Public Policy Center, and Boys Town will hold the 6th Annual Nebraska School Safety and Security Summit with a focus on Prevention and Preparedness. This year's event will be held at Embassy Suites in downtown Lincoln from **8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

**Register
Today**

In Other News

We Are Hiring a Research Specialist



The Public Policy Center is currently seeking a Research Specialist I or II to assist with quantitative data collection and analysis on our current and future projects. You can join our diverse interdisciplinary research team and work on a variety of research and consultation activities.

Applications must be submitted by October 11. For more details on the position or to apply, please visit our [careers page](#).

Drones Provide New Ways to Fight Fires and Save Lives



Firefighters have a new tool to help fight fires using drone technology, keep humans out of harms way, and provide a more efficient method of burning. **Carrick Detweiler**, University of Nebraska Public Policy Center faculty fellow, co-founder and CEO of Drone Amplified, spoke to *Silicon Prairie News* about the technology and how it can change how firefighters work.

[Read the story.](#)

Welcome Our Newest Students!



Nyagoa Deng is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in political science with minors in Human Rights & Humanitarian Affairs, and Global Studies. She has participated in faculty-led research, interned for the Nebraska State Bar Association Tenant Assistance Project, and is currently serving as president of her university's black student government.

Maggie Massey is pursuing a bachelor's degree in political science with minors in criminal justice and statistics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She has enjoyed working in many different political jobs



during her undergraduate career, including being a Nebraska page and working on campaigns.

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)

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