

February 2024

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska** PUBLIC POLICY  
CENTER



# POLICYTALK

The Latest in Public Policy  
Center News and Events

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## Featured News

### Family in Rural Nebraska Delivers Hope to for Thousands Struggling with Mental Health

Rural Nebraska suicide rates continue accelerating past those in the state's urban areas. "Oftentimes they're not getting diagnosed for depression or seeking out their provider," said **Quinn Lewandowski**, NUPPC Research Manager. "They're suffering in silence until things get to an extreme breaking point." Read about how one family in Central Nebraska and many others are working to change this reality in a new article from the *Flatwater Free Press*.



[Learn  
More](#)



## Invent2Prevent Program Finals Wrap Up in D.C.

The Public Policy Center serves as national evaluator for the **Invent2Prevent** experiential learning program, which challenges high school and college students to develop programs or initiatives that prevent targeted violence in their communities. Finalists invited to D.C. included University of Nebraska-Lincoln's team (above) who took third place for their "SafeSpace Nebraska" initiative.

[Learn More](#)

## Faculty Fellow Highlight



### 2017 Study Featured in Recent Article on Kansas Wildfires

A June 2017 study by University of Nebraska Public Policy Center faculty fellow, **Dirac Twidwell**, and colleagues was cited in a recent article by KCUR about wildfires in Kansas State. The study covers the "Surging wildfire activity in a grassland biome."

[Read Full Article](#)

## Events

### **D.C. Professional Enrichment Academy Program**

Applications now open

**Due April 15, 2024**

Join a free, value-added program that meets once a week in the evening and connects students with prominent D.C. alumni and each other. Through the program, students will benefit from thoughtful mentoring and programming, expand their network, and learn to transition from college into their professional careers.

*All current University of Nebraska students interning in Washington, D.C. during the summer are eligible, including students from all four campuses and from any major or discipline. They can also register to receive academic credit for participating.*



**Apply Today**

## Center News

### **PPC Students Make UNL's Dean's List**



Congratulations to each and every one of our Undergraduate Research Assistants and Undergraduate Copy Editor for making the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Dean's List for the 2023-24 fall semester. All of our students work hard and prove themselves to be exemplary through their work at the Public Policy Center and beyond.

**Read More**

**Step-by-Step Guide on Revising All-Hazards Disaster**

## Behavioral Health State Plan Featured



The latest issue of *The Dialogue*, a quarterly newsletter for disaster behavioral health coordinators, local service providers, federal agencies, and nongovernmental organizations, features "Steps to Revising an All-Hazards Disaster Behavioral Health Plan" by Dr. Denise Bulling, Senior Research Director at the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center.

[Read More](#)

## Publication Looks at the Impact of Rank on Willingness to Report in Military Workplace Violence Scenarios



*Authors of the article include Elizabeth Low, Mario Scalora, Denise Bulling, Mark DeKraai, & Kyle Siddoway.*

A recent article in the *Journal of Threat Assessment and Management* highlights the impact of rank on reporting violence in military workplaces. A service member's rank and their relationship to a person exhibiting concerning behavior in the workplace may influence whether they would report the behavior. Adjusting workplace violence prevention strategies may increase service members' willingness to report problematic workplace behavior that would enhance the effectiveness of threat assessment and management practices.

[Read More](#)

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