

Today's PolicyTalk includes one item:

1. PPC State Funding Slated for Reduction

The PPC has been identified by UNL for a substantial reduction in its university ("state") funding for 2009-10. The amount slated for reduction is less than 10% of the Center's annual expenditures. "While this proposed cut in state funding is certainly a fiscal challenge to the Center's operations in the short term, we are determined this reduction in funding will not interfere with the Center's ability to carry out its existing obligations nor will it limit our ability to undertake research and engagement activities for the benefit of Nebraska and the nation in the near or long term," said Public Policy Center director, Alan Tomkins. As UNL Chancellor Harvey Perlman recognized in his statement accompanying his announcement of the Center's proposed budget reduction, the Public Policy Center has increased its projects and funding each year for the past four years, and it is expected the Center's external funding growth will continue and cover the Center's cost of operations.

The staff members of the Center are cognizant of the difficult position the University of Nebraska has been placed in because of the recent economic downturn and the less than optimal appropriation the University received for next year. A shared sacrifice is required across the University, and other individuals and units at the University have had outcomes far worse than has the Public Policy Center. We sympathize with the many others in our community and across the nation (and globe) that have been and will be economically impacted to a far greater degree than we.

To read about UNL's budget cuts, see <http://www.unl.edu/ucomm/chancellor/2009budget/>.