

UNIT DESCRIPTION: The Public Policy Center

- is an outreach and engagement unit
- serves the state and communities in Nebraska, as well as the nation
- provides policymakers with information through the conduct of original research as well as from the existing literature and policy practices in other jurisdictions
- links those with policy needs to expertise at the University

FIVE PRIORITY AREAS OF RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT (Selected Projects & Funding Sources)

1. Behavioral Health and Human Services

- Children's Mental Health and Substance Abuse Statewide Infrastructure Grant (HHSS Finance & Support, via USHHS SAMHSA)
- Disaster Mental Health: Hospital Preparedness & Statewide Planning (HHHS Regulations & Licensure via USHHS HRSA & CDC)
- Katrina Evacuees (HHSS Behavioral Health, via USDHS, FEMA)
- Critical Incident Stress Management Project (HHSS Regulations & Licensure)
- Gambling: Program Evaluation (HHHS Behavioral Health)

2. Deliberation, Democracy, and Public Participation

- Public Engagement on Pandemic Flu Vaccine Priorities and State Disaster Planning (US CDC)
- Behavioral Health Strategic Planning (HHSS Behavioral Health)
- *By the People: Immigration* (with NET-TV) (MacNeil/Lehrer Productions & Williamsburg Foundation)
- Energy and the Future (with Professors J. Renaud, Broadcasting, & A. Struthers, Advertising; in-kind from NET-TV) (Nebraska Center for Energy Sciences Research)

3. Application of Information Technology to Health & Human Services Delivery Systems

- Information and Referral Database Interoperability for 2-1-1 Systems (US Dept of Commerce, Telecommunications Opportunities Program)
- Regional Health Records for Frontier Communities [Nebraska Panhandle] (USHHS AHRQ)
- Public Health Surveillance & Reporting Systems Planning (Chadron Community Hospital, via USHHS HRSA, Rural Health Policy, Rural Health Network Development)
- MidSouth Delta 2-1-1 Development Project: Program Evaluation (United Way of America, via Kellogg Foundation)

4. Access to Government Services

- Minority Justice Committee (State Bar Association & Supreme Court)
- Judicial Restructuring Project (State Bar Association)
- Nebraska's Drug Courts: Program Evaluation (State Court Administrator's Office & Office of Probation; federal funding proposal pending)

5. Water Resources

- *By the People: Your Water* (with NET-TV) (Nebraska Humanities Council)
- Building Knowledge Discovery and Information Fusion Tools for Collaborative Systems Engineering (with Professors A. Samal, PI, & L. Soh, Computer Science & Eng, & X-H. Chen, Hydrogeology) (NSF) (additional NSF funding received for collaborative workshop on same topics with Hohai University, Nanjing, China)

KEY BENCHMARKS

- Portfolio of 8-12 grants and contracts, with external funds totaling between \$1.0-1.5 million annually
- Peer-Reviewed Conference Presentations and Publications, 5-10 annually
- Indicia of national recognition, such as invitations to serve on national committees, and highlighting of Center's activities and work products by national or governmental organizations, within 3 years.

DEVELOPMENT/GROWTH AREAS

- Taking the Center from "Good to Great"
- International linkages for our work, when possible

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