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University of Nebraska Public Policy Center Annual Report, Period Covered, July 1, 2000-February 28, 2002: Submitted to the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center Advisory Board, March 14, 2002

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University of Nebraska
Public Policy Center

Annual Report

Period Covered:
July 1, 2000-February 28, 2002*

Submitted to the
University of Nebraska
Public Policy Center
Advisory Board
March 14, 2002

*Because the University's reporting year runs from July 1 through June 30, this Annual Report covers the 2000-2001 period and continues through the end of February 2002.

Public Policy Center Staff
March 2002

Director
Alan Tomkins, JD, PhD (Law, Social Psychology)

Associate Director
Nancy Shank, MBA (Business)

C-SIP Project Manager
DeAnn Hughes, MPA (Public Administration)

Minority & Justice Task Force Project Manager
Judd Choate, PhD (Political Science)

PRICE Project Manager
Jamee Wolfe, PhD (Sociology)

Research Specialists
LaChelle Bailie, MPA (Public Administration)
Teri Perkins, MA, MS (Agricultural Economics)

Post-Doctoral Research Associate
Crystal Grow, PhD (Law/Psychology Program)

Office Manager
Jenn Elliott, BA (Psychology)

C-SIP Project Assistant
Jill Olney, BA (International Business)

Staff Assistants
Monica Merry-Mason, MA (Applied Linguistics)
Teresa Ryans

Graduate Research Assistants
Mallie Moss, MA (Clinical Psychology)
Elizabeth Neeley, MA (Sociology)
Bennie Shobe, MA (Sociology)
David Wallick, BA (English)
Brent Wilson, BA (Political Science)

Undergraduate Research Assistants
Thom Donahue (Political Science, Business)
Heidi Lammers (UNK Political Science)
Tessa Nelson (Psychology)
Karen O'Neill (Business Administration)
Karen Reynolds (Political Science)

Undergraduate Administrative Assistants
Ian Christensen (Biochemistry)
Sean Malone (Music Performance & Biology)
Eric Martin (Political Science)

Public Policy Center Faculty Affiliates
July 1, 2000 to present*

John Allen, UNL/IANR CARI
John Anderson, UNK Poli Sci
Valerie Ann Egger, UNL/IANR AgLEC
John Bartle, UNO Public Admin
Lloyd Bell, UNL/IANR AgLEC
Beth Birnstihl, UNL/IANR Cooperative Extension
Robert Blair, UNO Public Administration
Bradley Bobertz, UNL Law
Brian Bornstein, UNL Law Psych
Eric Buchanan, NU Foundation Relations
Steve Buhler, UNL English
Leon Caldwell, UNL Educational Psychology
Randy Cantrell, UNL/IANR Coop Extension & CARI
Miguel Carranza, UNL Sociology
Jeff Chambers, UNL Ctr. Children., Fam. & Law
Sam Cordes, UNL/IANR, Agricultural Economics
Rochelle Dalla, UNL Family and Consumer Sci
Jerry Deichert, UNO Ctr for Public Affairs Rsch
Carol Ebdon, UNO Public Admin
Cynthia Willis Esqueda, UNL Psychology
Charles Francis, UNL/IANR Ag & Hort, CARI
Susan Fritz, UNL/IANR AgLEC
Lourdes Gouveia, UNO Sociology
John Gruhl, UNL Poli Sci
Fayrene Hamouz, UNL/IANR Nutri. Sci & Dietetics
DeLynn Hay, UNL/IANR Cooperative Ext.
Laurie Hodges, UNL/IANR Agronomy & Hort
Debra Hope, UNL Psychology
Julie Horney, UNO Criminal Justice
Skip Hove, UNL Finance
Jenn Hunt, UNL Psychology
Jodi Isernhagen, UNL Ed Admin
Barbara Jackson, UNMC MMI/Pediatrics
Linda Jensen, UNMC/UNK, Nursing
Mike Jess, UNL Conservation & Survey
Roxanna Jokela, UNMC Rural Health Ed Network
Georgia Jones, UNL/IANR Nutri. Sci & Dietetics
Lyn Kathlene, UNL Political Science
Marc Kiviniemi, UNL Psychology
Robert Kuzelka, UNL School of Nat. Resources
Peter Longo, UNK PoliSci
Claude Louishomme, UNK Poli Sci
Joe Luther, UNL Comm & Regional Planning
Gary Lynne, UNL/IANR Ag Econ
Mary McGarvey, UNL Economics
Nancy Mitchell, UNL College of Journalism
Karen Novak, UNL Marketing
Irv Omtvedt, UNL/IANR VC emeritus
Magda Peck, UNMC Pediatrics
Reece Peterson, UNL Special Education
Susan Poser, UNL College of Law
Linda Price, UNL Marketing
Marcela Raffaelli, UNL Psych & Ethnic Studies
Kim Robak, NU Central Admin
Kay Rockwell, UNL/IANR AgLEC
David Rosenbaum, UNL Economics
Marilyn Schnepf, UNL/IANR Nutri Sci & Dietetics
Alice Schumaker, UNO Public Admin
Sandra Scofield, UNL Ctr Math Sci & Computer Ed
Anna Shavers, UNL College of Law
Kevin Smith, UNL Poli Sci
Cassia Spohn, UNO Criminal Justice
Norm Thorson, UNL Law
Vicky Weisz, UNL Ctr on Children, Fam & Law
Ethel Williams, UNO Public Admin
Gregg Wright, UNL Ctr. Child, Fam & Law
John Wunder, UNL History

*This list reflects faculty who have been involved with the PPC projects identified elsewhere in this Report. The extent of participation ranged from full partnership to limited consultation or informal input; some projects provided faculty with compensation whereas others did not. This list does not include potential partners on proposed, but not funded, projects.

ANNUAL REPORT

BACKGROUND

The mission of the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center (PPC) is to enrich public policy efforts by facilitating, developing, and making objective research available to Nebraskans. PPC faculty and staff undertake the investigation of public policy issues and topics of importance to Nebraskans by coordinating policy research, linking policymakers with experts throughout the University system, raising the visibility of public policy-related research activities, and facilitating access to public policy research and expertise. Ideas are generated by state legislators, elected and appointed officials, University of Nebraska faculty, and other stakeholders. The PPC operates on base funding slightly in excess of $200,000 annually from the five University of Nebraska campuses and Central Administration. University (state) resources are supplemented by funds generated from external grants and contracts (see attached Financial Report). In July 2001, an additional $30,000 was made available by NU Central Administration in order to defray the costs of relocating off-campus, a move necessitated by the PPC's growth and a lack of the necessary space on UNL's City Campus. The PPC is a University-wide unit, but it resides institutionally within the UNL Office of the Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

ON-GOING AND COMPLETED PROJECTS (Alphabetical Order, July 1, 2000-February 28, 2002)

211 Information & Referral System Cost/Benefit Analysis

Purpose: The PPC was asked to define, describe, calculate and present the likely costs and benefits of implementing and maintaining a 211 information and referral system in Nebraska. The study's major components included a survey describing the current state of information and referral services in Nebraska, and a cost/benefit analysis to present the likely technical and practical costs and benefits of implementing and maintaining a coordinated I&R 211 system. The analysis was intended to assist policymakers in determining the feasibility of establishing a Nebraska 211 system.

Key Partners: *External*: Nebraska Health and Human Services System; United Way of the Midlands. *University*: UNL Department of Economics; UNL Bureau of Sociological Research; UNL Center on Children, Families, and the Law.

Funding Amount: $76,000 from HHSS. (Note: All funds expended prior to 7/1/00.)

Status: Research completed Spring 2000, but information dissemination continued through Summer 2000.

Carbon Sequestration

Purpose: LB 957 (2000) created the Nebraska Carbon Sequestration Advisory Committee. The Committee was asked to address the problem of how to "quantify and verify carbon sequestration on agricultural land" in order to "enhance the ability of the state's agricultural landowners to participate in any system of carbon or greenhouse emissions marketing or trading." The PPC was asked to coordinate an examination of legal and economic issues related to carbon sequestration.

Key Partners: *External*: Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. *University*: UNL/IANR Department of Agricultural Economics; UNL College of Law.

Funding Amount: $33,000 from Nebraska Environmental Trust.

Status: Report Completed and Submitted to DNR and Task Force, Fall 2002.

Communities in Transition in Rural Nebraska
Purpose: The PPC was asked by its Board to develop a long-term, comprehensive project that ultimately will provide an understanding of why some rural communities in Nebraska are successful whereas others are not and will provide insights into the potential for sustainability of Nebraska's rural communities. Among the critical questions are: Are there differences in rural community success as a function of the size of a community? Can a town of 200 be successful? How? Can a community of 2,000 be successful? What does it take? Further, can anything be done for those communities who do not yet deem themselves to be successful? Can practical interventions be identified? Are there policy choices that enhance the likelihood of success, or is success independent of any governmental action?
Key Partners: *External*: The project will involve community members from rural Nebraska communities, government officials and bureaucrats, NGOs, and the private sector. *University*: Project Steering Committee members currently represent UNK Department of Political Science; UNL Department of Finance; UNL Department of Community and Regional Planning; UNL Department of Political Science; UNL/IANR Center for Applied Rural Innovation; UNL/IANR Cooperative Extension; UNL/IANR Department of Agricultural Economics; UNMC Department of Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine; UNMC Rural Health Education Network; UNO Center for Public Affairs Research; UNO Department of Public Administration; Office of the Vice Chancellor for Agriculture and Natural Resources; University of Nebraska Central Administration Strategic Technologies; University of Nebraska Foundation.
Funding: Approximately $102,000 has been spent for the development of the project since February 2001. Of this amount, almost $13,000 has been for "out-of-pocket" expenditures for research and project development (graduate research assistance, a master's level Project Specialist, supplies, travel, and other operating expenses). All of these out-of-pocket funds have come directly from the PPC budget. Approximately $38,000 represents the value of core PPC faculty and clerical time spent on the project. Again, the funds to support PPC faculty and clerical staff effort have come directly from the PPC. Finally, a little less than $52,000 has been donated by units across the University of Nebraska to underwrite the release time and travel expenses for their faculty and staff who have been serving on the Steering Committee.
Status: PPC Board will determine the direction and future of the project at its meeting on March 14, 2002.

Lincoln/Lancaster Community Services Implementation Project (C-SIP)
Purpose: C-SIP is a community-wide effort to facilitate implementation of the Lincoln/Lancaster County Human Services Three-Year Comprehensive Plan. It involves working with seven coalitions comprised of agency representatives, policy makers, and consumers in the following areas: Basic and Emergency Needs, Behavioral Health Care, Early Childhood and Youth Development, Family Violence, Housing, Medical Health Care, and Transportation. In addition, C-SIP serves a coordinating, technical assistance, and data-warehousing role in the process of establishing a practical implementation of a data collection strategy for the benchmark data that will be required to establish baseline measures and to assess the progress made toward achieving measurable outcomes in each of the coalition areas.
Key Partners: *External*: Lincoln/Lancaster County Joint Budget Committee (JBC) (with representation of City Council, County Commissioners, and the Mayor's Office, among others); United Way of Lincoln/Lancaster County; Woods Charitable Fund; Lincoln Community Foundation. *University*: UNL Center on Children, Families and the Law; UNL Department of Political Science; UNL Department of Educational Psychology.

Funding:$224,000 (awarded through June 2002) from the External Partners.
Status: In process; project will run through June 2003 with possibility of continuation beyond that time.

National Survey of American Families Project
Purpose: This project is an archival study examining rural and urban differences on the impact of poverty on family well-being. The data being examined were collected as part of the National Survey of American Families. The issue is whether families with lower socioeconomic resources in rural jurisdictions are worse off than those families with lower socioeconomic resources in urban jurisdictions.
Key Partners: *University*: UNL Center on Children, Families and the Law.
Funding: $20,000 ($10,000 to CCFL which is the lead unit, $10,000 to PPC) from the from the Annie E. Casey Foundation through the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM).
Status: Project nearing completion.

Nebraska Minority and Justice Task Force
Purpose: Over the past two decades, lawyers, judges, and others in the legal community have become increasingly sensitive to national and local concerns as to whether ethnic and racial minorities are treated the same as whites by the justice system. Many states have undertaken specific inquiries to document the perceptions, experiences, and gather statistical data related to minority interaction with the justice system and those in training to join the legal system. The Minority and Justice Task Force is Nebraska's effort to examine minority justice issues.
Key Partners: *External*: Nebraska Supreme Court, Office of the State Court Administrator's Office, Nebraska State Bar Association, Task Force members (representing a range of those working within the judicial system), and Nebraska's courts: County Courts, District Courts, and Federal District Courts. *University*: UNK Department of Criminal Justice; UNK Department of Political Science; UNL Center on Children, Families, and the Law; UNL College of Law; UNL Department of History; UNL Department of Political Science; UNL Department of Psychology; UNL Department of Sociology; UNL Ethnic Studies Program; UNL Law/Psychology Program; UNMC Department of Psychiatry; UNO Department of Criminal Justice. *Others*: Creighton University; Nebraska Wesleyan University, National Center for State Courts
Funding: $130,500 from the Nebraska Supreme Court, Nebraska State Bar Association, and State Justice Institute.
Status: In process; project runs through fall of 2002 with possibility of continuation beyond that time.

Partnering to Reach Integrated Competitive Employment (PRICE) for Nebraskans with Disabilities
Purpose: This project involves a comprehensive study of Nebraska's Medicaid Program serving persons with disabilities who work, or want to work, in competitive employment settings. The PPC's ultimate role in this project is to make policy recommendations for changes to the state Medicaid program. Specifically, the PPC, is involved in four, key tasks. 1.) In conjunction with the Nebraska League of Human Dignity, the development, administration, and analysis of a survey designed to ascertain consumers' perceptions of barriers and supports to employment for people with disabilities in Nebraska. 2.) The development of models and fiscal projections of improvements to Nebraska's Medicaid Insurance for Workers with Disabilities (Medicaid Buy-In) Program. 3.) The analysis of the current Personal Assistance Services program (federal and state policies and regulations), including

interviews with Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services staff from central and local offices, consumers and home health agencies, for the purposes of recommending improvements to the program. 4.) Assessments and recommendations regarding the potential impact of increased income due to employment on consumer eligibility for other benefit programs (i.e., means tested programs) administered by the Nebraska Health and Human Services System.
Key Partners: *External*: Nebraska Health and Human Services System; the League of Human Dignity. *University*: UNL Department of Economics; UNL Department of Sociology; UNMC College of Nursing at Kearney.
Funding: $418,000 contract with HHSS, from funds to HHSS from a Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 Medicaid Infrastructure Grant.
Status: In process; current funding runs through December 31, 2002, and a continuation contract will be negotiated with HHSS.

Policy Seminar Series
Purpose: The Policy Seminar Series is intended to provide lawmakers, public or non-profit sector professionals, workers in areas affecting or affected by public policy, and citizens interested in policy formation and implementation, an opportunity to become more polished and effective policy participants. The series brings together top University of Nebraska public policy researchers and teachers, along with policy officials from the Executive and Legislative branches of Nebraska's government, to address policy questions and discuss their application to specific policy problems. Policy seminars have focused on the following topics: Participating in the Public Policy Process; Public Policy Formulation and Analysis; Rural and Urban Economic Development; Rural and Urban Education Policy; Rural and Urban Environmental Policy; Rural and Urban Health Policy; Rural and Urban Tax Policy; Sorensen Forum for Political Leadership
Key Partners: *External*: Department of Economic Development; Department of Education; Department of Health and Human Services; Department of Natural Resources; Department of Revenue; Lieutenant Governor (former); Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department; Secretary of State (former); Unicameral Committee on Education; Unicameral Committee on Government, Military & Veterans Affairs; Unicameral Committee on Revenue. *University*: NU Office of External Affairs; UNK Department of Political Science; UNL Department of Educational Administration; UNL Department of English; UNL Department of Political Science; UNL Center for Science, Mathematics and Computer Education; UNL/IANR Conservation and Survey Division, School of Natural Resources Sciences; UNL/IANR Office of the Vice Chancellor of Agriculture and Natural Resources; UNMC Department of Community Health/Department of Pediatrics; UNO Department of Public Administration;
Funding: $18,000 from Tom Sorensen Endowment, UNL College of Arts & Sciences (through 2002).
Status: On-going.

Real Choices for Nebraskans
Purpose: This project undertakes research and social learning processes to initiate systemwide service and culture changes that support consumer-directed services and supports across the lifespan for Nebraskans with disabilities or long-term illnesses. Activities include: 1) identifying successes, obstacles, and opportunities of the current service delivery system; 2) analyzing obstacles and opportunities, and determining strategies; 3) facilitating statewide information and referral standardization and information sharing; and 4) assisting the Real Choice Steering Committee and Consumer Task Force.

Key Partners: *External*: Nebraska Health and Human Services System; Parent Training Information of Nebraska; League of Human Dignity. *University*: UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute/College of Medicine-Pediatrics.
Funding: $10,925 from HHSS for preliminary work. Contract pending for additional work: Funding through Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.
Status: Final contract and scope of work are currently being negotiated; the funding should be somewhere in the range of $100,000 per year for the next two years.

Special Education Flexible Funding Project
Purpose: The purpose of this project was to provide information about a variety of flexible funding projects that address issues related to discipline and counseling in Nebraska's schools.
Key Partners: *External*: Nebraska Department of Education. *University*: UNL Department of Special Education. *Other*: Drake University.
Funding: $15,000 from the Department of Education.
Status: Completed Winter/Spring 2001.

State Meat Inspection Program
Purpose: There is interest by meat producers (primarily smaller operations) and policymakers in whether Nebraska should develop a state meat inspection program.
Key Partners: *External*: Agriculture Committee of the Nebraska Unicameral. *University*: UNL/IANR Department of Agricultural Economics; UNL Department of Political Science.
Funding: $1,500 from the Nebraska Pork Producers Association and the Nebraska Cooperative Development Center.
Status: Completed Spring/Summer 2001.

Supplying Our Local Institutional Demand (SOLID) Food Project
Purpose: This project is intended to enhance economic opportunities for Nebraska producers by stimulating and strengthening ties within local food system networks. The project's objectives are to develop market-based links between local food producers and institutional food services; promote environmentally sound practices through the development of networks of participating producers who engage in sustainable agricultural practices, and through the outcomes of lesser reliance on long-distance transportation of food products; and enhance health-promoting food literacy among a wide range of consumers, that will encourage understanding and healthy consumption of fresh goods.
Key Partners: *External*: Center for Rural Affairs; Community Alliances for Interdependent AgriCulture; Heartland Center for Leadership Development; Nebraska Community Food Network; Nebraska Department of Education; Nebraska Resource Conservation and Development Councils; Nebraska Restaurant Association; Nebraska Rural Development Commission; Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society; Selected Nebraska Producers; USDA Rural Development. *University*: UNL Center for Science, Mathematics & Computer Education; UNL Department of Advertising; UNL Department of Marketing; UNL/IANR Center for Applied Rural Innovation; UNL/IANR Cooperative Extension; UNL/IANR Department of Agricultural, Leadership, Education and Communication; UNL/IANR Department of Agronomy and Horticulture; UNL/IANR Department of Nutritional Science and Dietetics; UNL Division of University Housing; UNMC Rural Health Education Network.
Funding: $675,000 proposal submitted to the Kellogg Foundation.
Status: Proposal pending.

Statement of Activities *
Public Policy Center
University of Nebraska
Fiscal Years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002

	FY 2000-2001		FY 2001-2002 (to 01/31/02)	
REVENUE				
Support and Revenue				
State-aided Support		$205,171		$241,404
Grants and Contracts (confirmed)				
Carbon Sequestration Project	$23,100		$9,900	
Lincoln/Lancaster Community Services Implementation Project (C-SIP)	$69,005		$155,000	
National Survey of American Families Project	$7,817		$2,184	
Nebraska Minority Justice Task Force	$5,000		$125,465	
Partnering to Reach Integrated Competitive Employment (PRICE)	$62,456		$180,544	
Policy Seminar Series	$12,925		$18,000	
Real Choices for Nebraskans			$10,925	
Special Education Flexible Funding Project	$14,760			
State Meat Inspection Project	$1,500			
		$196,563		$502,018
Contributions		$1,303		$425
Small Projects, Miscellaneous, and Carry Forward Funds		$77,890		$69,458
Total Support and Revenue		**$480,927**		**$813,305**
Expenses				
Salaries and Benefits		$312,998		$307,360
Operating & Supplies Expenses		$74,153		$111,759
Travel Expense		$10,194		$6,244
Capital Outlay		$535		$11,951
Total Direct Costs		**$397,880**		**$437,314**
Total Indirect Costs		$12,955		$19,022
Encumbrances		$2,927		$0
Total Expenses		**$413,762**		**$456,336**
Revenues Over Expenditures		**$67,165**		**$356,968** **

Note:

* Figures are based on fiscal information from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, but this report does not represent, in itself, an audited document.

** It is expected that 2001-2002 "Revenues Over Expenditures" line will equal $0, except for funds supporting projects extending past the end of the fiscal year.