University of New Hampshire
Carsey School of Public Policy

Last Month / Next Month

A Monthly Newsletter from the Carsey School

Congratulations to Our Graduates!

In mid-May, Carsey gathered with graduating students and their loved ones to celebrate the tremendous dedication and perseverance that brought the students to the finish line of their respective master's degree programs at Carsey. We look forward to seeing these new graduates contribute to the fields of community development, global conflict & human security, public administration, and public policy!

Convening of NH Early Care and Education Research Consortium

The Center for Social Policy in Practice recently hosted the 2026 NH Early Care and Education (ECE) Research Consortium convening in Durham, which drew researchers and research users from across New Hampshire and beyond. Participants confirmed topic areas for ongoing research, identified resources and gaps in each area, and contributed to research priority setting. The day's work will be synthesized and shared out as the first-ever coordinated NH ECE research agenda.

Consortium of University Public Service Organizations' Annual Conference

Carsey's Mikayla Townsend, Melinda Negrón-Gonzales, and Stephen Bird traveled to Anchorage, Alaska, to attend the Consortium of University Public Service Organizations' annual conference which brings together university public service centers, institutes, and initiatives. This year's conference addressed Public Service on the Frontiers, exploring how higher education can strengthen its role in civic engagement, interdisciplinary partnerships, and public sector innovation. Carsey staff contributed to discussions on leadership development, capacity building, civic engagement, and academic admissions challenges and opportunities.

Across three days of workshops, lightning talks, and poster sessions, the Carsey team engaged with colleagues from institutions nationwide—exchanging strategies, case studies, and best practices for issues currently facing public service organizations. They returned energized by new ideas and tools that will inform Carsey's ongoing work advancing public policy education, community engagement, research, and public sector innovation.

Portsmouth Mental Health Alliance Community Discussion on Local Needs & Solutions

NH Listens facilitated a community discussion with the Portsmouth Mental Health Alliance to explore and share insights on local mental health needs and solutions. This event provided the opportunity for community members, families, service providers, and local leaders to come together, talk about what they are seeing, and help shape the work of the new Portsmouth Mental Health Alliance. Attendees joined small-group conversations to share their ideas, discuss what is needed in the area, and suggest ways to support mental health and recovery for people of all ages.

Celebration of Ken Johnson's Nineteen Years of Service at UNH

Colleagues, students, and partners of Carsey Senior Demographer Ken Johnson gathered to celebrate his retirement as Professor in the Sociology Department and his “almost retirement” from the Carsey School. Ken will remain involved with the School as Carsey continues shaping its next chapter. He will also continue to analyze and report on the latest demographic data.

Ken has published a book and more than 250 research papers. He is an Andrew Carnegie Fellow, awarded by the Andrew Carnegie Corporation to scholars identified as among the country's most creative thinkers to advance research in the social sciences and humanities. He has also been honored by UNH, which named him the Class of 1940 Professor for his excellence in interdisciplinary research and teaching. He has also received UNH's Faculty Excellence in Research Award and a UNH Faculty Scholar award based on the quality, originality, and significance of his scholarly work. The Rural Sociological Society honored him with its Excellence in Research award.

We look forward to seeing Ken reach his 100th Carsey publication!

Agrivoltaics: Pairing Solar and Farming in New Hampshire

What does it look like to produce both food and energy on the same land? At UNH, Dr. Constantine Spandagos and the Spandagos Lab (Department of Natural Resources and the Environment, College of Life Sciences and Agriculture) are exploring that question through agrivoltaics. Graduate students Jillian Zube (PhD) and Ellie Malesiada (MS), alongside NH Listens partners Dr. Carrie Portrie and Dr. Maddie Smith, are engaging a variety of people through interviews and outreach with farmers, municipal leaders, and energy experts—including connections at the Farm, Forest, and Garden Expo and the upcoming Farm-a-Q at Tuckaway Farm in Lee.

Recent Publications

Forests, Lakes, and “Hidden” Housing
Kenneth Johnson, Mark Ducey, Barbara Cook, and Kathryn Cottingham

Universal Free Lunch: Why Not New Hampshire?
Delaney Hesler

What’s the Scoop on Life in New Hampshire? Youth Perspectives on New Hampshire as a Place to Live, Learn, and Work After High School
Elliot Ng, Jayson Seaman, Cindy Hartman, Andrew Coppens, Kate Moscouver, and Hannah Falcone

View All Recent Publications

Research in the Works

- Kamala Nasirova and Suzanne Graham will report on change in per pupil expenditures in New Hampshire school districts between 2012 and 2022.

- Evan England will examine creating an equitable system of child care in New Hampshire.
- Kamala Nasirova and Tyrus Parker will discuss the implementation of preschool in New Hampshire public schools.

Recent Scholarly Works by Staff

Outdoor recreation in a changing climate: Visitors' impacts, coping strategies, and intent to return to Parks and Protected Areas in New Hampshire, USA
Maddie Smith et al. in *The Journal of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism.* This article shares the last chapter of Maddie's UNH doctoral dissertation. Maddie is a research scientist with the Earth Systems Research Center at UNH and a research and engagement fellow with New Hampshire Listens.

Carsey in the News

Councilors approve contract for work that determines childcare aid for families
Jess Carson in *New Hampshire Bulletin*

Check out the Carsey School on UNH Today for more Carsey-related news articles and event announcements.

Interested in a Public Service Grad Degree or Know Someone Who Might Be?

Learn about our innovative degrees (Master in Community Development, Master of Public Administration, Master in Public Policy, and Master of Global Conflict and Human Security) that prepare students to have a greater impact in the world! Learn to analyze societal problems, manage on-the-ground projects, and develop leadership and communications skills imperative for making sustainable change happen in your community.

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