

# 20 Years In Review (2002-2022)



SCHOOL OF CRIMINOLOGY  
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE



Juvenile  
Justice  
Institute

# Mission Statement

The Juvenile Justice Institute is committed to using applied research to identify the needs of the juvenile justice system; evaluate programs and policies; monitor the overrepresentation of juveniles based on their race and gender; and advise the Legislature and Governor on the Nebraska juvenile justice system.

## Who Do We Serve?



### Policy Makers

JJI is directed in statute to help inform policy makers about juvenile justice data, trends, and best practices. Since the beginning JJI staff have served on numerous statewide advisory boards, testified on proposed juvenile justice legislation, informed interim legislative studies, and published over 70 Nebraska juvenile justice reports.



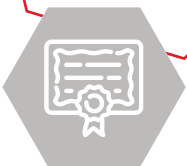
### Researchers

JJI partners with researchers at the state and national level. JJI has partnered internationally with researchers and practitioners from Poland, Singapore, South Korea, Malaysia, and Colombia. These multilevel partnerships have resulted in published academic articles, informed policy, and provided training.



### Students

JJI is committed to helping develop the future workforce through internships and graduate research opportunities. Over 40 students have worked for JJI over the past 20 years and hundreds of students have participated in classes taught by JJI faculty and staff. Through the reentry mentoring class, 243 students and mentor matches have been made over the last decade.



### Practitioners

JJI aims to translate research and data into practice to help guide the development of evidence-based programs. Evidence-based Nebraska has provided training to hundreds of program staff statewide and does a process evaluation of almost 200 programs each year. JJI regularly presents at state conferences about emerging Nebraska juvenile justice trends.

## Our Values

### Experience

JJI staff are experts in the field of juvenile justice, developing statewide evaluation projects, and innovative research methodologies to study issues relevant to young people.

### Accessibility

We believe in having evidence-based practices that are accessible to those serving youth and staff that are accessible to the community as a resource.

### Finding Solutions

At JJI, we value “living in the solution.” If a problem arises, our aim is to assess the issue and identify potential solutions to the problem strategically.

# Meet Our Team



## Anne Hobbs, J.D., Ph.D.

has served as the director of the Juvenile Justice Institute since 2009. She received her J.D. from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, College of Law in 1993, and her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2011. Her research interests include implicit bias, restorative justice, inequality in our justice systems, disproportionate minority contact and program evaluation. She was awarded a 2021 Fulbright Scholar to Singapore to study prisoner reentry. She is currently a 2022-2024 Restorative Justice Fellow through Center for Restorative Practices and BJA.



## Julie Garman, Ph.D.

is a research associate with the Juvenile Justice Institute at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Her research interests include special populations, program and policy evaluations, primarily in the areas of juvenile justice and correctional treatment. She works primarily on the Evidence-based Nebraska project, collecting and analyzing data on the effectiveness of various programs for youth throughout Nebraska.



## Monica Miles-Steffens, MPA

is a juvenile justice coordinator with the Juvenile Justice Institute. She oversees multiple projects, with an emphasis on training and development, restorative practices, and international collaborations. She has over 25 years of experience in juvenile justice direct service, government, and non-profit positions. She has worked extensively with grants, community planning, training, and program implementation.



## Amy Gathje, M.A.

received her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Nebraska at Omaha School of Criminology and Criminal Justice. She has experience as a mentor and caseworker with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. She is the program specialist for the Evidence-based Nebraska project, providing training and technical support for programs statewide.





## Kim Trost

is the project coordinator at the Juvenile Justice Institute. She graduated from Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska, with a B.A. in Communications. While at JJI, she has worked on multiple projects, including Nebraska's Strategic Plan for Victims and Survivors of Crime and the Strategic Plan for the Nebraska Justice Assistance Grant. She has planned Evidence-based Nebraska trainings and dialogues, as well as tracking budgets and projects at JJI.

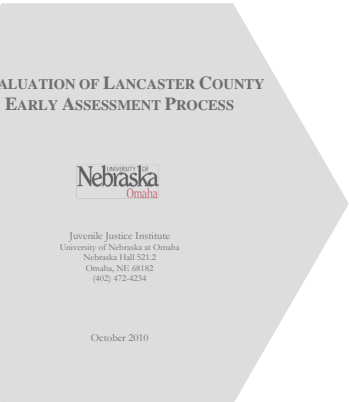
2002  
to  
2007

- 2002:** The Juvenile Justice Institute is founded
- 2003:** Probation Detention Intake Survey funded through the Nebraska Crime Commission
- 2004:** Juvenile Pretrial Diversion Reporting and Evaluation Project for the Nebraska Crime Commission
- 2005:** Evaluation of the Douglas County Nebraska Juvenile Assessment Center—Phase III
- 2007:** Lancaster County Juvenile Justice System Evaluation, Lancaster County Nebraska
- 2007:** Standardized Risk Assessment in Nebraska’s Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers Detention Facilities, State of Nebraska Office of Juvenile Services

 Evidence-based Nebraska Publications

 Evaluations and Strategic Plans

\*A [complete list](#) of all documents can be found on JJI’s website.



- 2008:** Statewide Juvenile Diversion Training
- 2009:** Building Bright Futures Truancy and Recovering Lost Youth Task Force Program
- 2010:** Evaluation of Lancaster County Alternatives to Juvenile Detention
- 2012:** Nebraska State DMC Assessment
- 2012:** Evaluation of Lancaster County Early Identification and Assessment Process - Final Evaluation
- 2012:** Youth Reentering Lancaster County After Commitment to a State Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center (YRTC)

2008  
to  
2012

2013  
to  
2017

- 2013:** Kansas State DMC Assessment
- 2013:** [Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Planning User Manual](#)
- 2014:** The Lancaster County Juvenile Reentry Project - Final Report
- 2014:** State of Juvenile Justice Report
- 2014:** Evidence-based Practice in Juvenile Justice: Nebraska White Paper
- 2015:** Analysis of the Nebraska Intake Risk Assessment Instrument
- 2012-2015:** [Nebraska Juvenile Diversion Programs](#)
- 2015-2016:** [Nebraska Alternatives to Detention Programs](#)
- 2016-2017:** [Evidence-based Nebraska Annual Report](#)



- 2018:** [Recruiting and Retaining Higher Risk Youth in Promotion Prevention Programs](#)
- 2019:** [School Resource Officer Contacts and Perceptions](#)
- 2020:** [Reliability and Predictive Validity of Screener/Assessment Tools in Nebraska Juvenile Diversion](#)
- 2020:** [Nebraska’s Community-based Aid Mental Health Services](#)
- 2015-2020:** [Hall County Detention Utilization Study](#)
- 2015-2020:** [Restorative Justice Conferencing Programs](#)
- 2021:** [Annual Report 2020-2021 - Juvenile Case Management System Definitions and Data Fidelity Project](#)
- 2021:** [Perceptions of Youth on Juvenile Diversion](#)
- 2021:** [School Interventionists: FY \(2015-2020\)](#)
- 2022:** [Annual Report 2020-2022 - Evidence-based Nebraska Pre-and-Post Assessment Tool](#)

2018  
to  
2022



# Meet Our Founders



T. HANK ROBINSON, J.D., Ph.D.

*Founding Director of JJI*

*Robinson is a University of Nebraska at Omaha alumnus, earning a doctorate in Criminology and Criminal Justice in 2002, subsequently leading the Juvenile Justice Institute and Consortium for Crime and Justice Research from 2002 to 2011. Under his leadership, these research units produced more than \$1 million in revenue to support graduate student tuition and salaries at UNO.*

DENISE C. HERZ, Ph.D.  
*Founding Faculty (UNO)*



NANCY THOMPSON  
*Founding State Senator*



The School of Criminology and Criminal Justice launched a new Juvenile Justice Certificate Program.

Anne Hobbs, Ph.D., and Kelly Riley, presented on the statewide restorative justice project at the Through the Eyes of the Child Conference.



The Juvenile Reentry Mentoring Class began. This class not only provides youth with quality mentoring, but provides the students in the field experience. Many students have gone on to work in the juvenile justice field due to this class.



**What's New In 2022?**



Anne Hobbs, Ph.D., and Monica Miles-Steffens taught the Juvenile Delinquency class on the UNL campus using their newly published e-textbook.

Anne Hobbs, Ph.D., was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to Study in Singapore. Singapore is doing incredible work within its prison systems. Prison Fellowship Singapore is the leader in many innovative efforts within prisons, at the prison gate, and at reentry.



Julie Garman, Ph.D., was recognized at the UNO School of Criminology and Criminal Justice Scholarship and Award Luncheon with the Staff Excellence Research and Assessment Award.



# Where To Find Us

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