

# statenews

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The Council of State Governments

March 2007

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## Correction

The 2007 Party Control maps published in the February *State News* incorrectly listed the party controls of the Nebraska House and Senate, the Alaska House and Senate and the Montana House. Nebraska's House and Senate are both unicameral, nonpartisan. Republicans control both Alaska's House and Senate. Montana's House is controlled by Republicans.

#### senior editor

Jack Penchoff

#### managing editor

Mary Branham Dusenberry

#### associate editor

Laura Coleman

#### graphic design coordinator

Natasha Bullock

#### proofreader

Chris Pryor

#### reprint permissions

(800) 800-1910

sales@csq.org

#### advertising sales

Mohanna & Associates, Inc.

(800)800-0341

info@mohanna.com

#### publication sales

(800) 800-1910

sales@csq.org

#### fax

(859) 244-8001

#### e-mail

statenews@csq.org

#### internet

www.csq.org

#### headquarters

Daniel M. Sprague, Executive

Director

2760 Research Park Drive

P.O. Box 11910

Lexington, KY 40578-1910

(859) 244-8000

#### washington

Jim Brown, General Counsel and

Director

Hall of the States

444 N. Capitol St. N.W., Suite 401

Washington, DC 20001

(202) 624-5460

#### eastern

Alan V. Sokolow, Director

50 Broad Street, Suite 520

New York, NY 10004-2315

(212) 482-2320

#### midwestern

Michael H. McCabe, Director

701 E. 22nd Street, Suite 101

Lombard, IL 60148

(630) 925-1922

#### southern

Colleen Cousineau, Director

P.O. Box 98129

Atlanta, GA 30359

(404) 633-1866

#### western

Kent Briggs, Director

1107 9th Street, Suite 650

Sacramento, CA 95814

(916) 553-4423

# csdBLOG

## No Child Left Behind

*State News* will feature a story about what is going on with the federal education law in an upcoming issue. No Child Left Behind and other education initiatives will be discussed in Congress and in statehouses across the country over the next few months. Check out Capitol Comments for updates. Click on the education link to access updates about NCLB and to share your comments on the issue.

## The Top 10 Trends

In 2005, CSG published two *Trends in America* reports. The first report highlighted the 10 major forces shaping our society, our political climate and our world, along with implications for state governments. The second report provided examples of state responses to these trends.

Building on those reports, CSG's research group has taken a fresh look at the trends that will be of strategic importance to states in future years. The new report will be unveiled in June 2007. We would like to know what you think about these trends and the ways in which they may affect your state. Visit Capitol Comments and click on the Trends link to get more information and add your comments.

## In the past...

Did you miss CSG's annual meeting in Phoenix? Find out what session attendees discussed by visiting Capitol Comments and clicking on the meetings link. CSG staff covered many sessions during the meeting, so catch up on what you missed!



## This Month in the NEWS

Application materials for the 2007 Toll Fellows program are available at the CSG Web site. The deadline to apply for the program is April 16.

Promising leaders from all areas of state government who are looking for the opportunity to improve their leadership skills and gain a greater understanding of the challenges of public service are encouraged to apply. Acceptance to the program is competitive and is based on leadership potential and accomplishments to date. Forty applicants are selected—10 from each of CSG's four regions. Two alternates from each region are also chosen.

The program agenda includes a lineup of dynamic speakers, leadership training and countless opportunities for networking and relationship building. Previous session topics have included leadership personality assessments, media training, crisis management training, policy trends discussions and more.

The Toll Fellowship Program convenes in Lexington, Ky., home of The Council of State Governments headquarters office. Participants are treated to a five-night, six-day stay—meals and program fees included—at the Hilton Suites of Lexington. Participants are responsible for their transportation to and from Lexington.

## capitol trivia

### Question:

Which states have the youngest minimum age requirements for candidates for governor? What is the age?

To find the answer, log onto CSG's Web site at [www.csg.org/](http://www.csg.org/)

## CSG-WEST Releases Report on Ethics

A special report on ethics by CSG-WEST is now available and came about as a result of the Committee on the Future of Western Legislatures. CSG-WEST convened the committee, which includes Western lawmakers and ethics experts, to discuss ethical conflicts and resolutions.

The committee reported that passing and complying with ethics laws is not enough to remedy declining public confidence in government.

In May 2005, the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania published results from a public opinion survey on the ethics of journalists, lawyers, teachers, government officials and politicians. Teachers ranked at the top of the list, but 52 percent of those surveyed rated politicians' ethics as either somewhat bad or very bad.

Peggy Kerns, director of the Center for Ethics in Government for the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), spoke at the committee meeting. Kerns noted that when the public is skeptical about its public servants, it undermines representative democracy. As a result, Kerns said, states are drawing ethical lines in the sand. Although the laws vary widely in the states, they generally fall into four areas—gifts, financial disclosure, ethics oversight and conflicts of interest.

Kerns said conflict of interest laws are tricky, especially since many legislators hold outside jobs and may find it difficult to separate public and personal interests. Kerns suggested that legislators consider the following pointers when faced

with a conflict of interest:

- Respect the legislative institution
- Follow the law
- Seek counsel
- Ask for advice
- Take a leadership role
- Meet your own standard
- Be aware of the appearance factor
- Be prepared to defend your decision

University of Washington professor Pat Dobel, an ethics scholar and practitioner in government and at the university, said that ethics laws create the belief that if we follow the law, we're ethical. He also told the group that in the eyes of the public, when a single lawmaker falls from grace, the entire legislature is tainted by it.

"It's like when I talk to my student athletes," he said. "I say when one of you cheats in the classroom, all 800 student athletes are automatically assumed to be cheaters by the professors."

A third speaker, professor Steven Maser from the Atkinson Graduate School of Management at Willamette University, spoke about the difference between ethics and laws.

To find out more about the meeting and to view the full report, visit [http://www.csgwest.org/Publications/Web2007Publications/Ethics12\\_09%20final.pdf](http://www.csgwest.org/Publications/Web2007Publications/Ethics12_09%20final.pdf).

## statesources

### Women Better Off in Northeast, Pacific West, Report

In some states it's better to be a woman than in others ... at least economically speaking, according to a report from the Institute for Women's Policy Research.

While women in the United States' work force have made gains in recent years, the report states, women still earn less, are less likely to have a bachelor's or professional degree or to own a business. Women are more likely than men to live in poverty and still only earn about 77 percent of what men earn.

No state can boast that the typical full-time working woman earn as much as the typical man, and at the present rate of progress it will take 50 years for women to achieve earnings parity with men nationwide. In the past 12 years, the poverty rate among women in 15 states has increased.

By region, women typically earn more money in the Northeast and West than in the Southeast or Midwest. Six of the eight "bottom states" are in the South. These states include West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana. Other worst-ranking states include Montana and New Mexico, although "dishonorable mention" has been given to Alabama, Wyoming, Idaho, Oklahoma and Texas.

States with larger shares of manufacturing and natural resources-based industries seem to constitute more favorable

economic environments for men, the report says, whereas those with strong public sectors, health and education centers and financial services may create more favorable economic environments for women.

The report also calculates earnings and bases its final "letter grade" per state on women's earnings, the wage gap, participation in the labor force and women's representation in managerial and professional jobs. The District of Columbia received a score of A- in this category. Arkansas ranked in the bottom 10 states on all four component factors, holding 50th place on women's earnings and 43rd place—its best ranking—on the earnings ratio between men and women.

Women in the Northeast and Pacific West generally have the highest earnings among women in the United States, while women in the Southeast and northern plains and mountain areas have the lowest.

About 45 percent of women in Washington, D.C., have at least a bachelor's degree, while in West Virginia—the worst ranked state in women's education—that percentage is 15.2.

To find out where women in your state rank economically and to view the full report, visit [http://www.iwpr.org/pdf/R334\\_BW-StateEconomies2006.pdf](http://www.iwpr.org/pdf/R334_BW-StateEconomies2006.pdf). See page 8 for map.

## Southern States Face Growing Aging Inmate Population

A report released in December by the Southern Legislative Conference of CSG provides information about the aging prison population in southern states. The average percentage of elderly inmates in SLC states is higher than the national average at 10.44 percent.

According to the report, just as the general elderly inmate population in state prisons is increasing, so is the percentage of elderly people convicted of violent and sex offenses. The Federal Bureau of Investigation estimates that nationwide, there are almost 40,000 arrests of people over age 50 for violent and sex-based crimes every year. SLC states reported a higher percentage of elderly inmates convicted of these types of offenses.

Since violent and sex-based crimes normally carry longer sentences than other crimes, these statistics contribute to the South's older than average prison population.

According to the report, it is important for states to evaluate what percentage of total inmates are serving sentences for these crimes, and recognize that this population likely will grow old in prison. In addition, all SLC reporting states indicated at least 30 percent of their elderly inmate populations are serving sentences at least 20 years in duration, including life sentences.

The survey also notes that overall, Southern states incarcerate

more people than other regions of the country. It said that higher percentages of violent and sex-based convictions could simply reflect a greater percentage of overall convictions in the South.

For states, the most glaring concern associated with aging inmate populations is the cost of health care. Failure to provide care that reflects services that would be available outside the prison community, according to the Supreme Court, violates the Eighth Amendment's prohibition of cruel and unusual punishment. Ironically, the better the treatment the inmate receives, the longer the inmate will live, thus the longer the prison system will be bound to provide for his care.

Another concern is that prison environments are often ill-equipped to meet the needs of elderly inmates. But, according to the report, there seems to be a concerted effort among Southern states' corrections departments to address the perception of a prison as an environment of castigation by bolstering staff education and training about the needs of elderly inmates. Many states have initiated programs for medical and security staff that will encourage a rehabilitative, rather than a punitive approach to elder care in state prisons.

To view the SLC's report in its entirety, visit [http://www.slcatlanta.org/Publications/HSPS/aging\\_inmates\\_2006\\_lo.pdf](http://www.slcatlanta.org/Publications/HSPS/aging_inmates_2006_lo.pdf).

## Working Group on DWI System Improvements Releases New Guide to a Strategic Review of the DWI System

The Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF) recently released "10 Steps to a Strategic Review of the DWI System: A Guidebook for Policymakers," a product of the third annual meeting of the Working Group on DWI System Improvements, a coalition of 14 criminal justice organizations working to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the DWI system since 2004.

States have passed a wealth of new legislation relating to impaired driving over the past two decades. Today, impaired driving statutes are among the lengthiest and most complex on the books. This has impacted the efficiency and effectiveness of the DWI system.

Research conducted by TIRF in 2003—with funding from Anheuser-Busch Companies—pinpointed ways offenders, particularly hard core repeat offenders, successfully evade detection and arrest, prosecution, conviction and sanctioning, and monitoring by supervision professionals. The research also identified practical solutions to overcome these problems based on the experiences and insights of thousands of front-line professionals.

Recommendations for change identified by the research and collectively embraced by key agencies emphasize the importance of communication and cooperation, training and education, as well as the use of proven technologies, standardization of records and efforts to make existing legislation work better.

At this juncture, the greatest payoff will arise from fostering

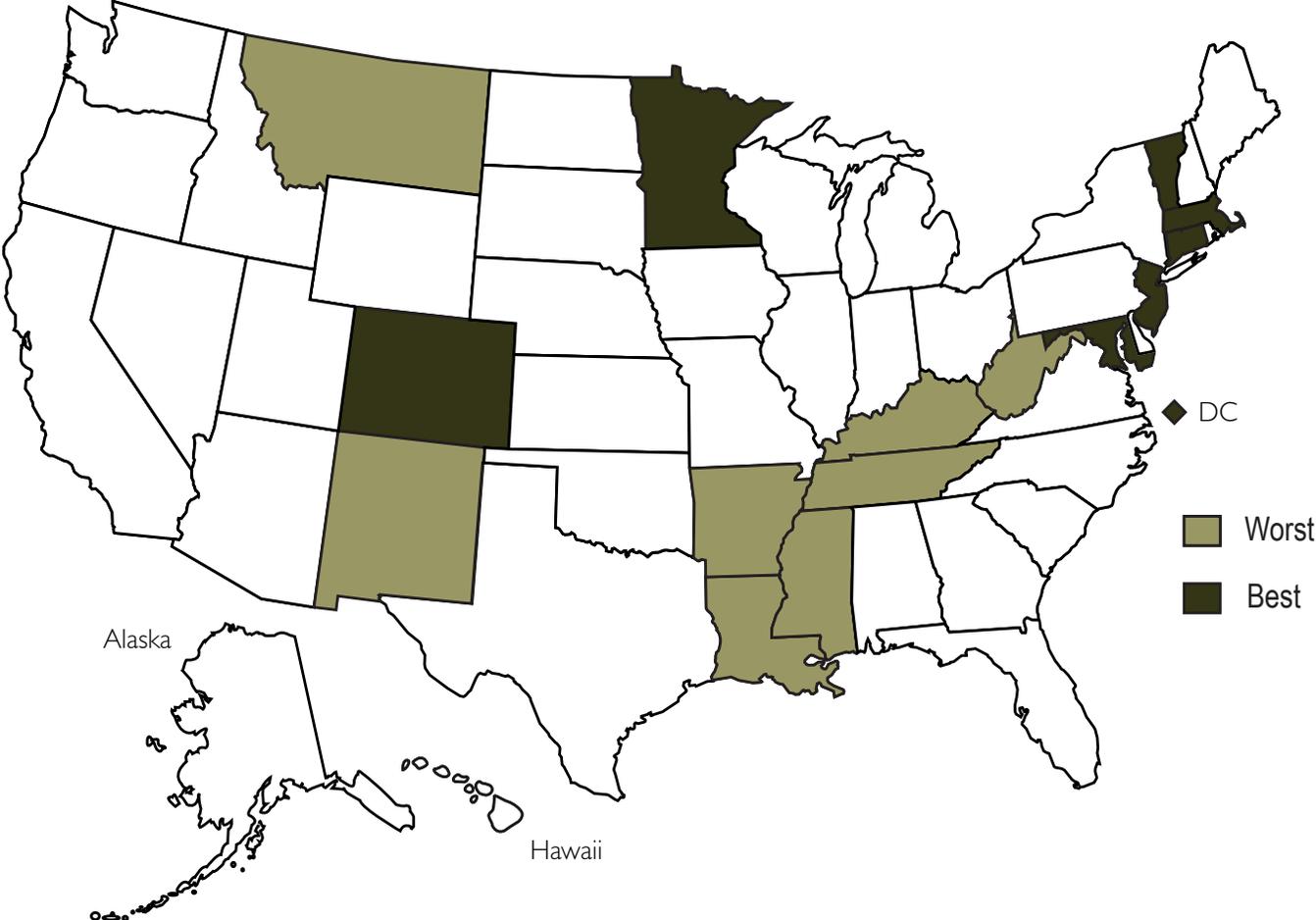
and improving cooperation among agencies and jurisdictions, and simplifying the system to encourage the coordination of activities. A linchpin to making this happen is a guided strategic review of the DWI system undertaken within each jurisdiction with leadership from legislators, policymakers and key agencies. A systemwide review will allow policymakers to identify and address problem areas and maximize the effectiveness of laws, programs and policies that have been implemented.

The report is designed to assist policymakers in leading a comprehensive review of the DWI system at the local, county or state level and at closing loopholes commonly exploited by savvy repeat offenders. It contains 10 critical steps based on sound research and developed with input from criminal justice professionals across the country. The guide includes a list of critical questions derived from existing research that can be used to identify problem areas.

Policymakers can use this report to build an effective team to conduct a comprehensive and impartial system assessment that highlights priority needs. It contains tools to aid in the decision-making process, and recommends ways to successfully implement change built upon consensus.

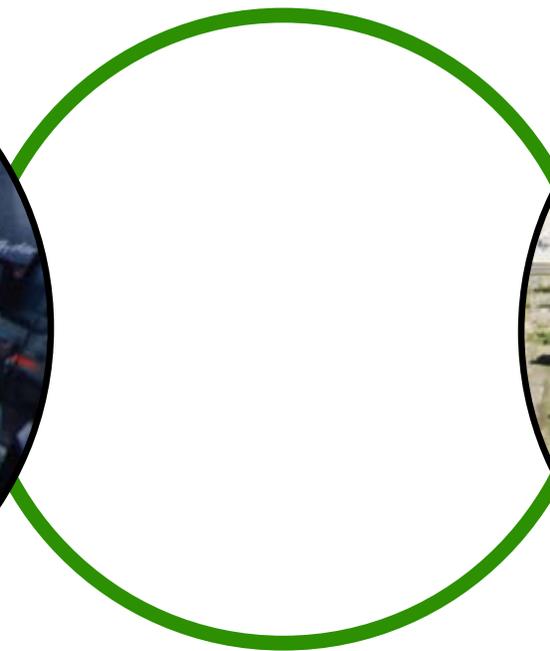
Copies of the guide can be downloaded by going to [www.tirf.org](http://www.tirf.org). Hard copies of the guide can be obtained from Dean Morin, manager of marketing and communications, at (877) 238-5235 or [deanm@trafficingjuryresearch.com](mailto:deanm@trafficingjuryresearch.com).

## Best and Worst State Economies for Women



Source: Institute for Women's Policy Research 2006.

See State Source on page 6.



# Let's Meet the **CHALLENGES** of Transportation

**The National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Commission has been holding hearings around the country soliciting input and recommendations from a range of public and private officials with regard to enhancing the nation's surface transportation network. Among those who testified at the Memphis hearing was Tennessee state Sen. Mark Norris of Collierville, who spoke in his capacity as chairman of the 16-state Southern Legislative Conference Economic Development, Transportation and Cultural Affairs Committee. The following is a summarized version of his testimony.**

By Sen. Mark S. Norris Sr.



Sen. Mark Norris was elected to the Tennessee State Senate in 2000 and represents Dyer, Lauderdale, Tipton and Shelby counties. On Jan. 10, 2007, Norris was elected majority leader of the Tennessee Senate. He had served as chairman of the Senate Republican Caucus in 2006 and was the first chairman to serve from West Tennessee since 1982. He also serves on the Senate Finance Committee, the State and Local Government Committee and the Judiciary Committee.

During Norris' term as chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee from January 2005 to January 2007, he presided over the adoption of the state's first long-range transportation plan and the creation of rural transportation planning organizations for grass-roots initiatives to meet the needs of local citizens. He led the fight to stop the annual diversion of taxpayers' money from the state's transportation trust fund to the general fund.

Norris currently serves as chairman of the 16-state Southern Legislative Conference Economic Development Transportation and Cultural Affairs Committee. He received the Bob James Public Service Award in 2006. Norris was named Legislator of the Year by Tennessee Public Transportation Association in 2006. He was a Henry Toll Fellow in 2001 and was selected as one of the Top 40 State Legislators in the nation. *Business Tennessee* magazine named Norris among the five best legislators in the General Assembly in 2004.

Norris is special counsel with the law firm of Adams and Reece, PLLC, in Memphis and has practiced law for 27 years. He is a 1980 graduate of the University of Denver's College of Law and resides in Collierville with his wife, Chris, and their two sons.



As chairman of the Economic Development, Transportation and Cultural Affairs Committee of the Southern Legislative Conference, part of my job is to foster innovation and cooperation between the federal government and the Southern

states in the development of our nation's long-term transportation policy.

In this connection, intergovernmental innovation and cooperation is alive and well in west Tennessee. I represent the "West Coast" of Tennessee in the Tennessee Senate. It is one of the country's main arteries of transportation and commerce. It includes the Interstate 69 corridor, the Mississippi River and the world's largest cargo airport, not to mention that it also is the home of Federal Express.

In October 2006, we broke ground for construction of a new port at Cates Landing in northwest Tennessee. A coalition of Lake, Obion and Dyer counties worked with state and federal governments to make this a reality. Road improvements funded under the new federal highway program, dredging funded under the Safe Harbors Act, bonds and other improvements approved by the State of Tennessee, and joint participation agreements made this a model of regional cooperation in economic development.

Similar innovation and cooperation will be essential in coming years given the confluence of events and challenges, including what some have referred to as the impending crisis in

transportation in the 21st century: lack of future funding and extreme congestion. While the nation's population exceeded 300 million recently, it is interesting to note that the number of vehicle registrations in the United States soared to a high of 237.2 million (up from 98.9 million in 1967 when our national population was 200 million). This could not come at a more challenging time for the Southern states. By 2030, our Southern population is projected to increase by 43 percent with two of our states, Texas and Florida, ranking among the five fastest growing states at 60 percent and 80 percent, respectively. With 36 percent of the nation's population 55 and older residing in the South, transportation decisions should be made that reflect and accommodate this growing population.

In addition, the South is in the midst of what some have called "the manufacturing revolution" as the relocation of automotive manufacturing from East Coast and Midwestern states creates a "whirlwind of investment from Mississippi to South Carolina." In addition, the South's impressive inter-modal capacities—including the array of aviation, shipping, rail and trucking facilities, and the need to constantly upgrade these facilities—will present special needs. For instance, Southern ports play a tremendous role in overall waterborne commerce and international trade. Almost 75 percent of waterborne exports and imports traveled through a Southern port. Of equal importance, 62 percent of total U.S. international trade traveled through a Southern port. All of these facilities must, out of necessity, have strategies and resources to expand, as the

The National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Commission was created by the U.S. Congress as part of the legislation that enacted the latest round of federal transportation funding, the 2005 Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act—A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).

The commission, chaired by U.S. Secretary of Transportation Mary Peters, is composed of 12 members that represent federal, state and local governments, metropolitan planning organizations, transportation-related industries and public interest organizations. Specifically, the commission has been charged with examining not only the current condition and future needs of the nation's surface transportation system, but also short- and long-term alternatives to replace or supplement the fuel tax as the principal revenue source to support the Highway Trust Fund over the next 30 years.

In a widely-acclaimed move, the commission has been holding a series of hearings around the country soliciting input and recommendations from a range of public and private officials with regard to enhancing the nation's surface transportation network. Along with CSG's Southern office, which was actively involved with the commission's hearings in Memphis, CSG's Eastern and D.C. offices worked on the hearings in New York City and Washington, D.C.



reality of mega-ships and the need for faster, bigger and more efficient handling of the goods and products they deliver becomes more urgent.

These challenges present us with opportunities, but we will not be able to take proper advantage of these opportunities unless we initially pursue several objectives. First, increased flexibility in federal funding which encourages regional collaboration and local control; second, the alignment of funding with the accomplishment of performance-based measures; third, the promotion of alternative energy, not only as a source of energy independence from foreign oil but also as a means of fostering economic development and mitigating negative environmental impacts; and fourth, if we are to succeed, it is most imperative that we raise public awareness and educate the general public.

Few understand the importance of transportation in the context we discuss today. Still worse, few see the subject in economic terms beyond “good roads mean good jobs.” While all politics may be local, the broader economic implications of regional, national and international economies must be put into proper perspective. All too often, efforts to increase funding for transportation are equated solely with the construction of new roads. Whether increased flexibility in federal funding will require new federal formulas remains an open question which must be answered with input from all the key players.

Performance-based measures are important to maximize funding, align resources with desired results and encourage

devolution of federal authority to the states. These performance-based measures, in turn, should create incentives to depoliticize appropriations and decentralize decision-making when it comes to determining how best to serve the ultimate consumer, John Q. Public.

Greater emphasis upon public awareness, education and performance-based funding should facilitate greater understanding of the interrelationships between roads, public transportation, commerce and the environment, and overall quality of life. Citizens need to understand the costs and benefits of all these dimensions. Promoting alternative energy also means finding practical alternatives to the gasoline tax and improving mass transit. This will not succeed unless the public is properly educated and can determine, for example, whether the benefits of a toll road outweigh the burdens of a higher gas tax and whether mass transit is efficient and cost-effective enough to encourage metropolitan area residents out of their automobiles.

As a state senator, I realize many states will likely have to do more with less in the next decade. But several regions, including the South, will require more if we are to meet the demands of the nation to remain competitive. This can be done, provided we have the flexibility to fully leverage our resources, but taxpaying citizens must be properly educated about the challenges we face and the consequences if we fail to meet them.

—Sen. Mark S. Norris Sr. represents Dyer, Lauderdale, Tipton and Shelby counties in Tennessee.



By Laura Coleman

In 1960, the Aral Sea, which lies between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan in Central Asia, was the world's fourth-largest lake. Its surface area sprawled more than 42,160 miles.

Today, however, due to excessive diversions and misuse, the sea has shrunk to about a quarter of its original size and salinity has increased. Worse still, the body of water continues to diminish.

To Wisconsin state Rep. Jon Richards, this startling example of water mismanagement makes a case for the Great Lakes Compact, an interstate agreement the eight Great Lakes states will discuss during their 2007 legislative sessions.

"The Aral Sea was once the size of one of our Great Lakes now and it is completely dried up because of mismanagement. That should be a warning cry to everybody that, without some thought, these resources which seem inexhaustible can literally disappear on our watch," he said.

With growing water demands in the United States, Richards considers it imperative that policymakers heed that warning cry.

"The Great Lakes system is a massive fresh water resource. It's immense," he said. "But most of the water in the Great Lakes was placed there in the last ice age. It's not the sort of resource that is constantly recharged. Once you drain it, it's lost forever."

## Details of the Compact

Before the current compact language was developed, the Great Lakes system was only nominally protected by the Great Lakes Charter of 1985, a voluntary cooperative agreement by the Great Lakes states and Canadian provinces.

But in 1998, the province of Ontario approved a permit for the Nova Group of Sault Saint Marie, Ontario, that would have

allowed the company to remove 160 million gallons of water from Lake Superior each year to be sold in Asia. The Ontario government rescinded the permit, but the close call led the Council of Great Lakes Governors (CGLG) to examine the issue of bulk removal in greater depth.

Since 2001, the CGLG has worked to develop the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Agreement to protect and maintain the Great Lakes as one of the United States' greatest natural resources. In December 2005, the Great Lakes governors and premiers signed the agreement and called for the enactment of its companion compact, which would provide a framework for each state and province to enact laws to protect the Great Lakes. This framework includes:

- A ban on new diversions of water from the basin, with limited exceptions.
- The enforcement of a review standard for proposed uses of Great Lakes water.
- A call for cooperation and sharing of technical data among the states and provinces to improve decision making by the governments.
- The development of regional goals for water conservation and efficiency and the promotion of water conservation and efficiency programs in states and provinces.
- The promotion of an economic development plan that is balanced with sustainable water use.
- A call to recognize the waters of the basin as a shared public treasure and a commitment of continued public involvement to implement the agreements.

Since 2001, the Council of Great Lakes Governors has worked to develop the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Agreement to protect and maintain the Great Lakes as one of the United States' greatest natural resources. The eight Great Lakes states will discuss, during their 2007 legislative sessions, a new compact aimed at protecting the basin.

# Liquid GOLD

## *Compact Aims to Protect Valuable Resource of Great Lakes*

“Water is liquid gold. Every state should take steps to protect that to the best possible degree.”

—Wisconsin Sen. Neal Kedzie

State legislatures in New York, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Minnesota and Indiana must ratify the compact. If all states ratify the compact and Congress consents, the compact will be federal and state law. For the agreement to become law in Ontario and Quebec, the provinces must amend their statutes and regulations as appropriate.

As of early February, the compact has been approved in Minnesota, and has also been introduced in Illinois and Indiana.

The compact forbids most out-of-basin diversions. Exceptions could be made for municipalities that either border the basin or are located in counties that straddle it. Those communities could only use the water for public water-supply purposes and would have to return all unused water to the basin.

According to Pete Johnson, program director for the CGLG, the compact refers to the basin as the surface water divide.

“If a drop of water hits the ground and would eventually flow into the Great Lakes, that’s the Great Lakes basin,” he said. “If it flows away, it’s outside the basin.”

Johnson said communities that apply for exception must meet a standard set forth by the compact and then undergo regional review by the governors and premiers. Finally all voting members of the compact council—the governors of the Great Lakes states—would approve or reject the exception.

### Issues Surrounding the Compact

Waukesha, Wis., which lies 15 miles west of Milwaukee, is the seventh largest city in the state with a population of about 60,000 people.

“We are just to the west by a couple of miles of the sub-

continental divide,” said Waukesha Mayor Larry Nelson. “The point of the compact is a city like Waukesha should have to meet certain conditions in order to receive water.”

Nelson said the first criterion is that the community seeking exception should have a serious water conservation plan. And although the common council has not yet decided to apply for Great Lakes water, that facet of application is one it is definitely taking under consideration.

“Last year the common council passed a water conservation plan that is the most comprehensive in the Midwest,” said Nelson.

The plan includes a sprinkling ban from 1 to 5 p.m. during the summer and a potential change in the way utilities charge for residential water usage.

“Right now if you’re a residential water user, water becomes cheaper once you pass a threshold,” Nelson said. “We are going to say you should pay more instead of less for obvious conservation issues.”

Nelson said if the city applies, those strict standards could set a precedent for other communities that apply for exception.

“I think the Great Lakes Water compact could be one of the most important environmental agreements ever,” he said, “as long as it is implemented correctly giving communities like Waukesha a fair chance to get Great Lakes water if we decide to apply and can meet the conditions.”

Wisconsin state Sen. Neal Kedzie, who chairs a study committee dedicated to find out how the compact can be best implemented, said issues like radium content in community water supplies could lead to annexations in order to receive Great Lakes water.



**To find out more about the Great Lakes Compact, visit <http://www.cglg.org/projects/water/GLSLRWRRB.asp>.**

**In addition, more information about interstate compacts in general is available at <http://www.csg.org/programs/ncic/resources.aspx>.**

“Townships do not have the ability to annex, but villages and cities do,” he said. “Potential future requests for water could lead to more annexations. We don’t want to set up any kind of water wars as a result.”

Furthermore, Kedzie said, differences between state land masses inside the basin confuse the issue.

“What complicates matters is when it comes to diversions, the state of Michigan has 99.9 percent of its landmass in the basin, which gives them more flexibility on where to move water without dealing with the rules the compact puts forward,” he said. “It’s not a level playing field among all eight states. To have the compact be a one size fits all, to get all states in harmony, is not easy.”

Linda Woggon, vice president of governmental affairs for the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, said that organization is concerned about language in the compact. According to Woggon, if a new business enters the basin intending to take out 100,000 gallons of water or more per day, it must acquire a permit. Compact members consider five criteria in the permit application process.

“If you don’t meet the first four, you aren’t getting the permit,” she said. “The fifth is a balancing assessment—they look at the other criteria and balance. It’s not an automatic disapproval ... there is some subjectivity.”

Woggon said the chamber’s concern is that the second criterion states that an applicant for a permit must show withdrawal or consumptive use will be implemented so it has no adverse impact on the quality or quantity of water in the basin.

“We think the way the criteria was intended in previous drafts of the compact was that if you could show a new withdrawal would result in damage to the basin as a whole or watershed as a whole, it should not be approved,” she said. “But if you’re going to have an adverse impact on some stream or some river, that should be considered in the balancing section. It may still be disapproved, but not automatically.”

Woggon said the Ohio legislature has made changes in its enabling legislation that the chamber supports, but without changes

in the language of the compact, the chamber could not support it. Keeping the unclear language the same, she said, ties the hands of the states and could be devastating from an economic perspective.

### ‘Not Opposed to the Concept’

Despite what could be interpreted as opposition to the compact, most groups that take issue with the compact’s language still see the need for legislation on the topic.

“I would like to stress that our business coalition really believes the concept of the coalition is excellent,” said Woggon. “We are not opposed to the concept. We just want to make sure in the course of getting all the states to approve, we don’t approve language that would be detrimental from an economic standpoint.”

Mayor Nelson agrees.

“One of my concerns is that 20 years ago all the legislatures were supposed to pass an agreement and they didn’t,” he said. “We certainly can’t wait that long to determine our best option in determining our water needs.”

To Richards, signing and enacting the compact is of immediate concern.

“What we’re finding all around the country and the world is that water is becoming a more precious commodity and each year fresh water becomes more scarce,” he said. “Pressure to take water from the Great Lakes to meet those needs is going to increase. The real question we have as a region is whether we’re going to adopt these rules or wait and delay and allow thirsty states and thirsty parts of the world to set those rules for us.”

Kedzie said this issue should be of importance to every state, not just those in the eight-state Great Lakes region.

“Obviously because we’re sitting on the world’s largest supply of fresh water, those who have been thinking they could take advantage of catching that water should be aware that we’re putting safeguards on it,” he said. “Water is liquid gold. Every state should take steps to protect that to the best possible degree.”

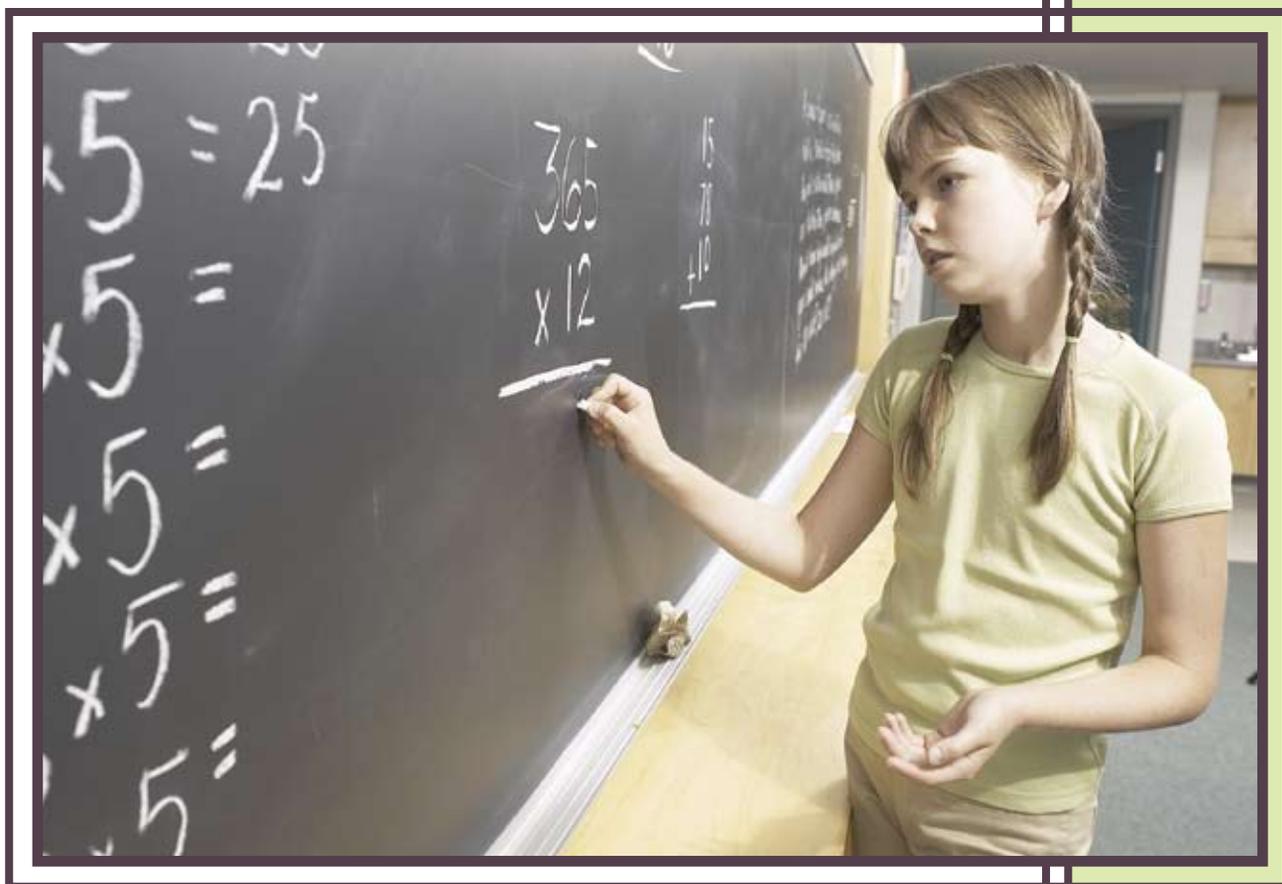
—*Laura Coleman is associate editor of State News magazine.*

**“The Great Lakes system is a massive fresh water resource. It’s immense. But most of the water in the Great Lakes was placed there in the last ice age. It’s not the sort of resource that is constantly recharged. Once you drain it, it’s lost forever.”**

—*Wisconsin Rep. Jon Richards*

# States *get a* HEAD START

*Governors Don't Wait for Federal Action  
on Challenges Facing Nation*



**In their State of the State speeches, the nation's governors offered proposals to address the many problems facing the country.**

By Mary Branham Dusenberry

When President Bush outlined his agenda in the State of the Union address in January, he touched on many challenges individual states are already tackling. While the federal government ponders ways to address many of the challenges facing the country, governors outlined plans for their states addressing many of the same issues.

Health care, education, energy and environment are always among the major proposals for governors, but in many of their state of the state addresses given in January, the country's governors went beyond the normal rhetoric, offering innovative plans to address the needs of their residents.

## Health Care

In no area was innovation more pronounced than health care reform. More than 46 million Americans are uninsured, according to the Kaiser Foundation on Medicaid and the Uninsured, and states are trying to change that.

Massachusetts and Vermont last year adopted plans that would offer universal health care to their residents. Massachusetts shifted Medicaid funding to help those who otherwise couldn't afford coverage. Bush's plan proposes allowing states to use Medicaid money currently directed to hospitals that primarily serve poor patients to help the uninsured buy coverage.

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger proposed a plan that would require all residents to purchase health insurance coverage. It's similar to the plan in Massachusetts, which offers sliding scale subsidies based on income. The California plan would require all businesses with 10 or more employees to offer coverage or pay a fee of 4 percent of their payroll into a fund to help the uninsured buy health insurance. Under the plan, insurers would be forced to offer coverage to people with existing medical conditions.

Schwarzenegger also recommended expanding the state's existing program for children's health insurance to families that

earn less than three times the poverty level, or \$60,000 for a family of four.

California isn't the only state focusing on expanded health care coverage. Several states—Connecticut, Kansas, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon and Washington—are considering proposals to cover all children or all residents. Illinois launched a program covering all children in 2006, and Pennsylvania plans to launch a similar program this year.

"I don't believe we should allow Kansans to go without health care simply because Congress cannot, or will not, act," Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius said. Her plan calls for providing every Kansas child with health care from birth to age 5.

Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty wants to expand coverage to all children under age 21 with a household income of \$60,000 or less for a family of four. He also would like to create a program—the Minnesota Health Insurance Exchange—that he said would give uninsured residents access to health insurance and lower premium costs by about 30 percent.

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, in his address, proposed two steps toward closing the uninsured gap. He suggested raising the Medicaid eligibility to 100 percent of the federal poverty level to help low income adults get health care. For those people who simply can't afford insurance, Richardson suggested expanding the state coverage program to more middle-class working adults.

Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman and Washington Gov. Christine Gregoire have proposed additional funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program to cover additional children.

## K-12 Education

The president is encouraging Congress to reauthorize No Child Left Behind, his education initiative. Education Secretary Margaret Spellings, who began her campaign to gain support for the administration's plans in January, said Bush's budget includes substantial increases for education.

"I don't believe we should allow Kansans to go without health care simply because Congress cannot, or will not, act."

—Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius



Governors are tackling the education issue by proposing expansion of some programs, improvements to infrastructure and changes in some requirements. Funding is a major issue, and several governors have proposed increases in the amount of money that goes into education.

Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano, for instance, wants her state to install a minimum starting salary for teachers at \$33,000, with raises beyond that and incentive pay for teachers in areas of special need in the state. Her initiative also offers financial incentives “to find, train and keep teachers who can successfully create a cutting-edge learning environment for their pupils.”

Georgia, which Gov. Sonny Perdue says has the highest paid teachers in the Southeast, will provide another 3 percent pay raise for teachers. Huntsman not only has proposed a 9 percent pay hike, he’s also calling for \$25 million for a one-time bonus for Utah’s classroom teachers.

Increased funding isn’t just targeted for faculty pay, however. Several governors have included new money for expansion of all-day kindergarten and preschool programs.

Huntsman included \$7.5 million in his proposed budget for extended day kindergarten in every Utah school district; and Delaware Gov. Ruth Ann Minner included funding for full-day kindergarten in 11 school districts and eight charter schools.

Minner also proposed financial incentives for early child care centers. Gov. Mike Beebe has proposed an additional \$40 million for the Arkansas Better Chance program to provide voluntary, top-quality preschool classes to all children whose families earn up to 200 percent of the poverty level. Minnesota also is looking at aiding at-risk students with preschool help. Pawlenty proposed an early childhood scholarship program to provide up to \$4,000 per child for at-risk students to attend a certified kindergarten readiness program.

New Hampshire Gov. John Lynch wants to increase the education budget, but says the money should be targeted to areas

most in need. “... Directing education aid to the communities with the greatest need will help ensure fair opportunities for all of our students,” he said. “We can lift up the communities that are struggling to provide a quality education and ease the burden of property taxes in communities that struggle the most.”

Gov. Tim Kaine proposed pilot projects to expand the Virginia Preschool Initiative by including “high quality private preschool programs, including church programs, in our efforts to expand early learning.”

Building or renovating schools is on the agenda in some states. California, for instance, approved bonds in November to build 10,000 new classrooms and renovate 38,000 more. Schwarzenegger asked in his state of the state address that the legislature providing funding for construction of 15,000 more new classrooms and renovation of 40,000 more.

Gov. Michael Rounds said the South Dakota Classroom Connections laptop project has been a success in the pilot sites, and he wants to double the number of laptops in his state’s schools to 10,000 next year.

Not all the governors’ proposals deal with funding. Lynch, for instance, encouraged the compulsory attendance age in New Hampshire be increased from 16 to 18.

“Half a high school education is no longer enough,” he said.

Arizona also proposed increasing the mandatory attendance age to 18, while Georgia is addressing the dropout problem through the expansion of the graduation coach program in high schools to the state’s middle schools.

Kaine also stated a goal of recruiting 750 new math and science teachers by offering college scholarships, loan forgiveness and recruiting teachers from the private sector. He proposed reducing math and science class sizes to the 25 students.

Sebelius launched Kansas Mentors, a statewide effort to provide adult role models to children. “Every Kansas parent deserves help pushing back popular culture so she can instill in

“... Directing education aid to the communities with the greatest need will help ensure fair opportunities for all of our students. We can lift up the communities that are struggling to provide a quality education and ease the burden of property taxes in communities that struggle the most.”

—New Hampshire Gov. John Lynch

“Today’s minimum wage means that some Virginians work 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year and earn less than \$11,000. That is not enough to take care of a family, not enough to buy a home, not enough to afford health insurance.”

—Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine

her children the values that lead to a good life,” Sebelius said. “Every Kansas child deserves someone he can look up to.”

## Higher Education

Increased funding for higher education is also on the agenda for several governors.

“Young people with the talent and the ability to pursue higher education in Arkansas should not be hindered by a lack of resources,” Beebe said. He proposed a \$1,000 state scholarship for students whose families earn less than \$25,000 a year.

Gov. Mitch Daniels proposed Indiana convert its lottery from a state bureaucracy to a franchised, regulated utility. The state could create Hoosier Hope Scholarships for Indiana students to attend college in the state, he said. In New Mexico, Richardson also proposed expanding a scholarship program, and suggested the state “get a grip on the out-of-control tuition hikes that put college out of reach for many New Mexicans.”

Idaho Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter recommended a bigger appropriation for higher education, including \$12.9 million to make salaries more competitive. And in Minnesota, Pawlenty suggested increases in not only tuition aid and general college and university funding, but also \$50 million for performance bonuses for higher education institutions that achieve “clearly defined and obtained strategic goals.”

## Energy

Oklahoma Gov. Brad Henry, CSG’s 2007 president, believes the growing energy crisis demands attention now. He’s selected sustainable energy as his President’s Initiative during the coming year.

It appears other governors agree there needs to be some focus on the current energy situation in the United States. Several mentioned energy—some in conjunction with economic development—in their State of the State addresses.

Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin said the state’s primary focus for long-term energy is the natural gas pipeline. “The gas line is critical not just for our future, but for the nation’s future,” she said. “It’s also an essential component for our nation’s energy policy.”

Other states are looking at developing or expanding renewable energy forms. New Mexico, North Dakota and Colorado, for instance, are looking at solar and wind among other types of renewable energy sources. Biofuels is a big topic in the states as well.

“Energy is today’s version of the space race of the ’60s and the technology race of the ’80s and ’90s,” said Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter.

Like other governors, Ritter wants to make changes in energy usage. He suggested converting Colorado’s vehicle fleets to hybrid or flex-fuels as they are replaced, and he would like to renovate state buildings to comply with higher energy-efficiency standards.

Richardson suggested transforming New Mexico’s schools into “green buildings” to save energy costs and protect the environment.

Schwarzenegger, in California, encouraged the legislature to fund the global warming legislation that caps greenhouse gas emissions. He also proposed California “be the first in the world to develop a low carbon fuel standard that leads us away from fossil fuels.”

## Other Priorities

As Congress wrestles with whether to increase the federal minimum wage, proposals are on the floor in Iowa, New Hampshire, New Mexico, South Dakota, Kentucky and Virginia to increase those states’ minimum wages.

“Today’s minimum wage means that some Virginians work 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year and earn less than \$11,000,” said Kaine. “That is not enough to take care of a family, not enough to buy a home, not enough to afford health insurance.”

Other states have proposed tax reform measures. Perdue, for instance, proposed that Georgia cut taxes on retirement fund income, and Otter asked the Idaho legislature to review the state’s personal property tax laws and proposed an increase in the grocery tax credit for lower-income Idahoans to \$90 per person.

Gov. Jon Corzine proposed a direct credit reducing the property tax bills of New Jersey residents by 10 percent to 20 percent of taxes owed. And Kaine proposed increasing the threshold for Virginia state income tax from \$7,000 to \$12,000 for an individual and from \$14,000 to \$24,000 for a married couple, a change that would eliminate income tax liability for around 147,000 Virginians.

Governors in Alaska, New Mexico, New York and Utah proposed ethics reform for state officials. “Holding the highest ethical standards is not a privilege,” said New Mexico’s Richardson, “but our responsibility as public servants. It’s also the best, and only way, we can protect the public’s faith in our democracy.”

—Mary Branham Dusenberry is managing editor of State News magazine.

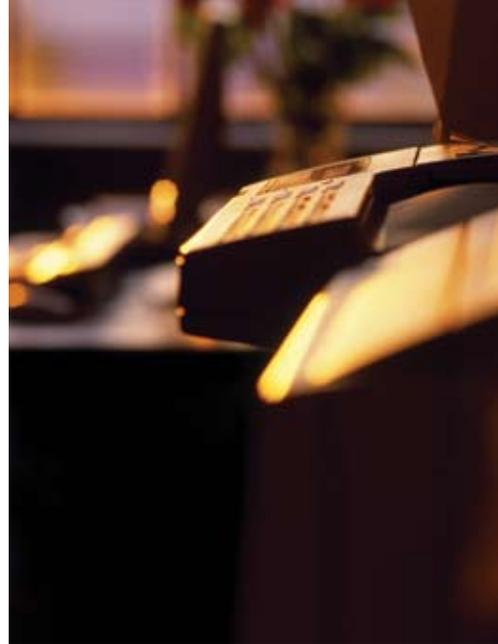
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## *States Open to Employees Telecommuting, But There Are Obstacles*

**Technology now allows many people to work from anywhere, not just the typical office setting. Many state governments offering this benefit to their employees have found telecommuting provides benefits beyond the original reasons, often traffic and air quality. But growing the program in many states has run into problems.**

By Mary Branham Dusenberry



Homework isn't as bad as it used to be.

In fact, many people, including employees in state government, are asking for it. Telecommuting is an option many states offer their employees as an alternative to working daily in a state office building.

Virginia is one state actively pursuing expansion of its telework program. Gov. Tim Kaine and the state legislature are pushing to have 20 percent of the state's work force telecommuting by 2009.

"Telecommuting has a lot of benefits," Kaine told *State News*. "From what I've read, it improves employee satisfaction and brings higher productivity. Happier people who aren't spending so much time in the car creates its own value."

Kaine signed an executive order in September 2006 creating a state office dedicated to encouraging public and private employees to work at home.

Traffic congestion in various parts of Virginia—including the Washington, D.C., area—in part is behind the efforts to encourage more employees to work from home or telework centers.

That reasoning is similar to why Arizona implemented its telework program nearly two decades ago.

Maricopa County, which includes Phoenix, failed to reach federal standards for air quality, and employers were charged with reducing employee trips to cut pollution. State government was no exception, according to John Corbett, administrator of Arizona's Telework Program.

The six-month pilot program between the state and AT&T, which began in 1989, proved successful. Not only was the program helpful in travel demand management, it also increased participating state employees' productivity and improved job attitude because there was a better work environment, Corbett said.

Virginia, too, has noticed other benefits outside the goal of reducing traffic congestion.

## The Benefits

"The benefit for the state is a well-managed telework program produces higher worker productivity," Kaine said. "There's more

work done and more citizens served."

The work-life balance is often touted as a benefit for telework initiatives, both in public service and private industry. Virginia offers several alternatives, including telecommuting, for its state government work force to address the work-life balance issue.

"I think of how many parents with kids are somewhat hemmed down during school years by responsibility to family, and that's the way it should be," Kaine said.

Many people, he said, may not be able to work the traditional 9 to 5 schedule, but by offering options like flexible schedules and telecommuting, those people may be open to working for state government.

"It's a great way for any organization to take advantage of a talent pool that might not be available to you," he said.

Telecommuting is becoming a perk many employees expect. In *Fortune* magazine's most recent "100 Best Places to Work," 82 of the top 100 companies allow employees to telecommute at least 20 percent of the time.

"For a lot of people entering the work force, they are interested in flexibility, so it's a real handicap if you don't have it," said Sara Wilson, director of the Virginia Department of Human Resource Management and president of the National Association of State Personnel Executives (NASPE). "It really is trying to focus on work/life balance ... everybody has different issues they need to take care of."

Wilson and others believe telecommuting can be an important recruiting tool. And that will become even more important as state governments across the country face workers reaching retirement age—up to 29 percent of state work forces could be eligible to retire within five years and 13 percent of the employees could retire within a year, according to Leslie Scott, NASPE association manager.

"The Gen Ys and the next generation ... they expect it," Scott said. "They would be shocked if it weren't offered."

Corbett said states could face a "very large senior moment when people start retiring and the new generation comes in ... if we're not making the workplace more flexible to attract and retain our

“You need a champion within the organization to carry the ball and to keep management interested in telework. Managers need to be online. They need to know all their concerns will be addressed through the selection of proper employees.”

—John Corbett, administrator  
Arizona Telework Program

employees with programs like this.”

Chuck Wilsker, of the Telework Coalition, said the technology available today eliminates the need for many people to be tied to an office setting.

“If you spend your time on the phone and on a computer, you can probably do that from any location,” he said.

Scott said if the definition of telecommuting is expanded, there may be more people counted among telecommuters. “With everybody walking around with Blackberries and cell phones,” she said, “is that telecommuting?”

Wilsker calls telecommuting a “win-win” situation.

“It’s better for society in general,” Wilsker said. “It’s great for employees because it adds to the work-life balance, and it reduces tremendous amount of costs.”

In addition to fuel costs, Wilsker said those working at home can save on wear and tear on vehicles, dry cleaning for work clothes and eating out. He said it also saves money for companies and governments that offer the perk by cutting absenteeism and the need for office space.

According to NASPE, six states— Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Oregon, Virginia and Texas—offer telework programs in all agencies and programs throughout state government. At least 34 states offer telework programs in selected agencies and regions.

Kaine’s goal of 20 percent of the state work force, then, would seem attainable. But he estimated that only 3 percent to 4 percent of the state employees were telecommuting in 2006.

Arizona’s goal is also to have 20 percent of state employees telecommuting. After 17 years, the state recently reached 19.74 percent participation rate in Maricopa County. Now, Corbett said, the state needs to maintain that number.

The International Telework Association and Council (ITAC) estimated that only 16 percent of the country’s 135.4 million workers worked from home at least once a week last year. The National Technology Readiness survey, released last year, found that only 11 percent of workers telecommute regularly. The study, produced by Rockbridge Associates Inc. and the Center of Excellence in Service at the University of Maryland, also found

only 2 percent of Americans telecommute full-time.

## The Roadblocks

Those interested in expanding telecommuting opportunities in government have found it to be a difficult task. There is the problem of access to systems because of broadband availability, as well as the problem with state servers being able to handle remote access from multiple locations. And there’s always the issue of security.

Following the theft of a laptop and external hard drive from the home of an analyst for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs last May, technology officials are hesitant to give their blessing to take government computers home. In fact, an August 2006 survey found 40 percent of the 200 federal technology officials surveyed said security breaches are major concerns for them. Gerald T. Charles Jr. with Cisco Systems said security concerns seem to be slowing government efforts to increase the number of telecommuters.

But Wilsker, with the Telework Coalition, said available technology can eliminate at least part of those concerns.

“Technology exists where you can keep (sensitive) data on a corporate server, have an employee go home and get on a government computer and government network and access that information,” he said.

While security is a concern, it’s not the only roadblock for telecommuting. Technology requires an investment and security requires a plan, Kaine said. But he believes the biggest problem in expanding the number of telecommuters is people.

“A key obstacle is just training managers about how to take advantage of it,” he said.

Virginia’s human resources department offers training for managers of telecommuters. Wilson calls the management style: “managing from results rather than watching them sit there.

“You have to know what the goals and objectives are,” she said.

Wilsker said the opposition “runs the gamut from no leadership at the top to no desire at the bottom.”

He said it's often mid-level managers who oppose telecommuting, but employees themselves sometimes have problems with the change.

"There are a lot of employees who don't like the idea of being isolated at home," he said. "One negative people have come up with is that some people who did it (telecommute) occasionally felt the feeling of isolation."

These are among the "myths" Telework Arizona addresses on its Web site. Corbett said Arizona evaluated its telework program, including opinions from front line supervisors, mid-level supervisors, management, the legislature, the public, the coworker and the teleworker, and found 13 common misperceptions about telework programs. All are addressed on the Web site, [www.teleworkarizona.com](http://www.teleworkarizona.com).

"In any relationship, you have trust issues," Corbett said. That mistrust, he said, is often based on past relationships. "What has to happen is you have to build a new relationship around the two. Make sure you correct the right people, with the right skills and the right home atmosphere. You need to have thorough policies and training so you help to answer all the questions."

The Telework Arizona Web site offers a self-evaluation for its employees to determine if they fit the telework model. It's then up to the employee to take that information to his or her supervisor to be considered for telework.

Not every job is conducive to telecommuting. Virginia, like the federal government, says managers need to say why employees are not eligible to telecommute instead of giving reasons why they would be eligible.

## The Future

NASPE discussed the telecommute option at its January meeting. "I think our membership would like to encourage it.

They see it as an advantage in recruiting, particularly with a young work force," Scott said. "They have to listen to their IT folks, make sure the information is secure."

Scott said there are also limits on the number of people who can come into a network through an outside source. Accessing the server from home creates a strain on the system. She said those problems could limit the growth of telecommuting in state governments.

"My guess is it will be there. A few more people will telecommute, but it won't be booming. There are too many barriers to overcome at this point," Scott said. "Technology problems could be overcome before the mindsets are."

Nevertheless, increasing the number of telecommuters is at the top of Kaine's list for Virginia. And he thinks it could help other states as well, if governors and other state leaders buy into the option.

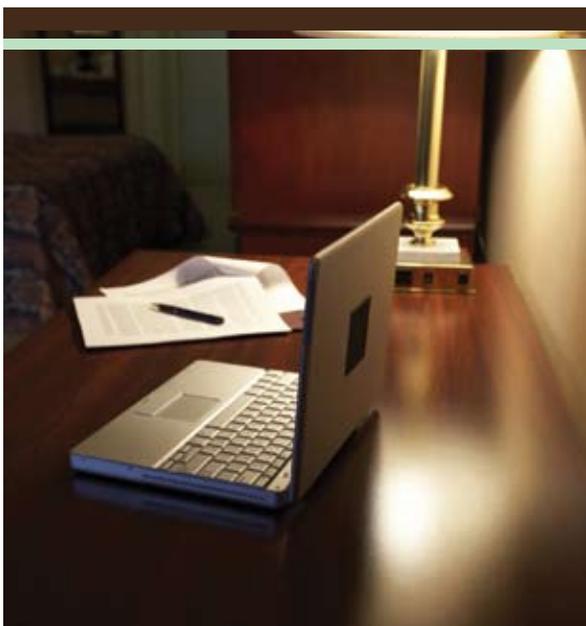
"It helps with something new if leadership comes from the top," he said. "It really helped when I signed the executive order when I said this is a key priority."

Corbett echoed those remarks. "You need a champion within the organization to carry the ball and to keep management interested in telework. Managers need to be online," he said. "They need to know all their concerns will be addressed through the selection of proper employees."

Kaine said it also helps for state government to find private sector partners that have successful telecommute programs.

"We in Virginia are fortunate in that there are some private companies that do it well," he said. "They are very anxious to tell their story and share what they can so we can do our job."

—Mary Branham Dusenberry is managing editor of State News magazine.



"For a lot of people entering the work force, they are interested in flexibility, so it's a real handicap if you don't have (telecommuting)."

—Sara Wilson, director  
Virginia Department of Human Resource Management



# Rebooting the Work Force

## *Telework Options Now, Just Work Later*

**Available technology and a more mobile culture are changing the way Americans work. Studies have found that those who work from home are actually more productive than those working in an office.**

By Wayne Hall

The U.S. Government Accountability Office, or GAO, recently signed off on a Patent Office plan to reimburse employees for home broadband expenses related to work. Under the plan, employees will be permitted to telecommute up to four days per week from an agreed upon work site, according to the column at CNET.com, “Telecommuting patently obvious gains.”

The agency believes this program will improve work force recruitment and retention, reduce traffic congestion and pollution and save money. Up to 3,300 employees could participate in this program by 2011. And so long as employee productivity doesn’t suffer, the GAO believes the program will be beneficial.

Since the Patent Office is assigned the job of recording innovation, I suppose it only makes sense.

By law the federal government must offer the option of remote work to eligible employees. Unfortunately, only 35 percent of federal managers believe their agencies support telecommuting, according to survey results released Jan. 22 by the Federal Managers Association and the Telework Exchange.

The managers aren’t the only ones in the dark. MONEY Magazine and Salary.com last year asked 26,000 workers just how satisfied they were at their jobs. According to the CNN article, “Most Satisfied Employees Work Longer,” only 16 percent of respondents said they could telecommute any time they pleased, 28 percent could do so with their manager’s approval and 55 percent were not allowed to telecommute at all.



Most people will agree that telecommuting doesn't make sense for every employee. But for qualified people and the businesses they support, the math is straightforward. The most stressed workers were also least able to telecommute, with only a third saying it was an option for them. And not only do satisfied workers have more work-from-home options than other respondents, as it turns out, they do more work.

## Mobile Culture

It's been said that we are changed by the tools we create. If so, remote, mobile or tele-work—call it what you will—is, like the interstate highway system, not just an engineering achievement.

Most technologies, particularly communications technologies, are adopted in unforeseen ways, which to be fair to the managers expected to cope with this work shift, also makes mobile work a fertile ground for academics. Professionals ranging from anthropologists to philosophers to demographers are studying workplace (re)arrangements.

Nonprofit institutions like the Pew Internet and American Life project are collecting data and reporting often on what they find. With its Digital Media and Learning initiative, the MacArthur Foundation is devoting a great deal of its resources to understanding how digital, scattered communication affects how we learn and interact.

On a slightly less ambitious scale, Web Worker Daily, which says it is “rebooting the work force,” advises young professionals on how to navigate the perils of off-site work with articles on such subjects as subscribing to important calendars (mobile workers often publish calendars to which others subscribe using automated software to ease collaboration), protecting expensive electronics (how to sheath that smart phone) and organizing digital information in a world where information can be overwhelming.

Communications technologies are pulling workers away from the office just as in decades past highways delivered employees to the office.

## Why Should Government Care?

Working remotely has been a discussion topic on and off since the early last decade, but some important trends make a more viable option than at any time in the past.

Communications and information technology is no longer being developed and deployed within organizations. Your employees are bringing leading edge technologies to work with them everyday, whether or not managers are aware of the trend. It's a process Gartner Group, a consulting firm, has referred to as “consumer-led IT.” Proscribing certain technologies can still be done, but such tactics can come at a high cost and wasted effort. Legitimate security and workplace policy issues aside, the point shouldn't be what employees do, but what they get accomplished.

A distributed work force offers a hedge against business disruption. Less obviously, we've all been in the office with the sick co-worker, wishing that she had just stayed home. Such “presenteeism” affects workplace productivity as well.

Fortunately, “Web services” are moving well beyond e-mail and Internet access. The private sector is migrating business processes to the Web, which enables a wide variety of on-demand services like sales force automation, customer relationship management, billing and order entry.

One byproduct of all those smart phones and compact laptop computers is the encroaching reality of “pervasive computing.” You may have heard the related terms of ambient or ubiquitous computing. Knowledge workers are hardly in danger of getting lost. Ping them often enough and they might beg you to come back to the office just to get some peace.

Given the growing market for outsourced work, more and more state government workers are likely to have a private sector business name on the signature line of their paychecks.

Lastly, the looming retirement of about half of all state governments' civil service may force a re-evaluation of just how state business gets done.

If like me, you have active children or teenagers, you understand how completely at ease they are with technology. So when boomers finally call it quits, it might just be a case of addition by subtraction. Briefed on the state's network security and business policies, the new employees won't give a thought to “telework.” It'll just be work, and suggesting differently will be kind of odd to them.

—Wayne Hall is the technology analyst with the National Association of State Telecommunications Directors.



*From left to right: Puerto Rico Rep. Javier Rivera-Aquino, Ivette Pagan Rivera, Bernardo Lopez and Marge Kilkelly. Rivera and Lopez are with Café Alba, a cooperative marketing effort by the Puerto Rico coffee growers.*

*Below, farm workers plant tomatoes at Gargiulo Farm.*



# SEEDS of Success

*Vibrant Agricultural Sector in Puerto Rico Needs a Little Help*

**Puerto Rico has unique rural issues that need recognition from the federal government. The Northeast States Association for Agricultural Stewardship is working with the island government to address the agricultural issues unique to the islands.**

By Marge Kilkelly



In Puerto Rico, the Cítricos del Montaña packing facility has a new juice facility that will utilize more oranges and keep the plant working year round.

As he speaks to farmers, policymakers and food processors, Rep. Javier Rivera-Aquino sounds like he grew up on a farm. This energetic, passionate legislator and citrus farmer is surely part of a long heritage of farm families.

But Rivera-Aquino's passion for agriculture was nurtured in 4-H, not from years on the farm. In fact, he began college as an architecture student only to discover that all his electives were in agriculture. His agronomy degree from Ohio State University has served him and his constituents well.

Puerto Rico is a cornucopia of crops, produce and animals, vastly different from that of the continental United States. While the island's farmers face unique challenges, many issues—including erosion and inclement weather, low prices and costs of production, and federal subsidies—are ubiquitous.

Rivera-Aquino, an active CSG/ERC member and alumnus of CSG/ERC's Eastern Leadership Academy, led a four day, fast-paced educational tour of Puerto Rican agriculture covering everything from angelfish farms and hydroponic lettuce to citrus groves and coffee roasters.

"The dynamic energy and creativity of all the farmers and the several legislators who joined along the way signals a major interest in agriculture and commitment to sound ag policy," said Rivera-Aquino.

House Speaker José Aponte-Hernandez met with the ag delegation and discussed his interest in creating a thriving rural and agricultural sector in Puerto Rico.

The following vignette outlines some of the tour stops and issues that the Northeast States Association for Agricultural Stewardship (NSAAS) will work on with Puerto Rico legislators.

## Winter Nurseries

Puerto Rico is home to seven winter nurseries where seeds are tested and grown before the next mainland growing season. Puerto Rico can handle up to three harvests a year, which means breeding research time can be cut about five years. This is important for agriculture as it provides a critical service to growers and creates jobs in agriculture and research. Moreover, the close proximity of Puerto Rico to the mainland U.S. makes it easy to bring staff between the winter nurseries and summer growing areas. It is a \$30 million business with opportunity for expansion.

NSAAS will continue to work with Puerto Rico and the Northeast states to develop more winter nursery relationships and new partners.

## Mangoes

Martex Farms is comprised of five separate farms in the Ponce area. The 3,000 acre farm grows, processes, packs and ships tropical fruits, including mangoes. The packing facility is a marvel of technology and the human touch. Belts and bins can sort by size, but only a watchful eye can select quality fruit. Two kinds of mangoes are packed—fresh fruit and fruit preserved for Asian cooking.

The fresh mangoes are required to go through a 30 to 90 minute bath at 116 degrees to assure there is no fruit fly infestation. A washing line as long as a freight train completes the process. Steps to the top provide a glance at a hot water bath where mangoes are placed and held for the allotted time. From here they go to a screened facility for packing. Some growers question the need for this process.

A USDA rule—which does not allow for packers to service the processing line after dark—causes a stop in production. The USDA believes artificial light will attract more fruit flies. Stopping the line is expensive for the processor and, eventually, the consumer.

NSAAS will work with legislators to encourage the USDA to develop a policy that allows processors to service machinery during the off-hours.

## Coffee, Avocados and Citrus

Steep slopes surrounding a large manmade lake are covered in trees which, to the untrained eye, look like any forested hillside. But this hill is no forest. It is host to coffee plants, citrus trees ready for harvest and avocado trees loaded with shiny green fruit.

Felipe Ozona, whose family came from Spain and has owned this hacienda for more than 160 years, drives his Jeep through these paths up the steep slopes and to the edge overlooking the valleys and the lake.

Erosion is a key issue for farmers like Felipe who work this steep farmland. USDA's Natural Resource and Conservation Service (NRCS) has a number of programs to assist farmers in implementing conservation practices to reduce erosion, but the steepness of the slopes in this part of Puerto Rico makes it ineligible for support. These crops, however, are not new plantings—some of the coffee trees are more than 30 years old.

NSAAS will work with legislators to encourage the USDA to develop a compromise policy on NRCS programs that would allow existing/historical steep-sloped farms to qualify for funding while disallowing new plantations.

NSAAS also plans to introduce Puerto Rico farmers to the use of sheep as a weed control on steep slopes creating a value added product (lamb) and reducing the use of herbicides. The U.S. Virgin Islands Agriculture Experiment Station has experience with this practice.

## Dairy

Dairy farmers in the Northeast are all facing issues of low prices and increasing costs of production. In Puerto Rico, the issue also includes the availability of UHT (ultra-high temperature processing) milk, which is sold at below cost prices in order to capture market share and undermine the fresh milk production and processing.

Dr. Jose Torrado, a veterinarian and dairy farmer in Hattillo, provided great insights into the issues facing local dairy farms. His 300-cow farm is similar in size to the farms in Northeast, although some of the issues differ. Dairy is a significant aspect of agriculture in Puerto Rico and has a farm gate value of \$196 million. Dairy farmers in Puerto Rico for years have been prohibited from using rBST, the artificial growth hormone used to increase production in cows, but they are not paid a premium for the milk. Consumers increasingly have been requesting milk without the hormone. Retailers can then sell the milk at a premium. Farmers argue that if they create milk that generates a premium price, they should share in the profits.

Moreover, Puerto Rico's farmers are not part of the national Dairy Promotion program and are frustrated that local food assistance programs such as WIC and Head Start are using UHT milk and soy milk rather than local fresh milk. Based on the market pressures, farmers are on the edge of overproduction and would like to explore opportunities to increase their market share and export milk.

NSAAS will work to connect Northeast dairy farmers, researchers and policymakers with counterparts in Puerto Rico, particularly to share best practices on local marketing and herd management. Furthermore, dairy farmers are concerned with issues of energy efficiency and the use of methane digesters, which can generate electricity from manure.

## Tomatoes

Gargiulo Farm started as an "insurance" farm for fresh tomatoes. It was the back-up to the main farm in Florida assuring that the company would always be able to satisfy its orders in the event of a killer freeze on the mainland. The 600 acres of tomatoes are planted in the fall, and the harvest is early January through April. The full-time, year-round work force of 50 increases to more than 700 during the harvest. Most of the employees are local and return each year. There is a need for workers trained in operating large equipment. Last year, the first Worker Improvement Act training program graduated 85 people with a placement rate of 97 percent.

Tomato farming is closely tied to environmental issues in Puerto Rico and in the continental U.S. New plastic piping for irrigation and plastic row covers for weed control are placed each year. The many advantages include reduced use of herbicides, efficient water use and higher quality fruit. It also generates an enormous amount of waste. At the end of each season, the plastic is put into 1 ton bundles and more than 40,000 pounds are hauled to the landfill. This is a costly process and an inefficient use of space on an already congested island.

NSAAS seeks to identify recycling projects for agricultural plastics in states that might be replicated in Puerto Rico. NSAAS will also work to identify successful employment training models especially for women as large equipment operators.

## Citrus Processing and Packaging

Maintaining market share in the citrus business and identifying products that meet consumer demand while reducing costs and loss is a difficult task for farmers.

In Puerto Rico, the Cítricos del Montaña packing facility has a new juice facility that will utilize more oranges and keep the plant working year round. In addition to orange juice, the facility will process and package tropical juice concentrates.

The company has also developed a line of peeled oranges to be used in school food service programs. The outer layer of the peel is removed by machines and the orange, with only the white pith remaining, is ready for kids to eat. The shelf life is still a full two weeks, which makes it a very attractive product for schools.

## Horse Racing/Breeding Farms

Caribbean horse racing is big business in Puerto Rico. Most of the breeding farms on the island are in the north and create many jobs in that region. For example, the Aras del Caribe farm, with 55 mares and four stallions, has 14 full-time year-round employees; hires ferrriers and vets; and buys hay, feed trucks, trailers and all the other supplies required for such a large farm. The industry as a whole employs more than 30,000 people and indirectly gets services from 60,000 more.

The commonwealth government receives about \$30 million a year from the track. The annual breeding stock sale is held at the Aras del Caribe Farm. The average price for a horse in the latest sale was \$22,000. The purse for the Haras del Caribe race is \$300,000.

## Fruits of Labor

NSAAS will remain actively engaged with Puerto Rico legislators to bring agricultural issues to the forefront of the legislative agenda and to ensure that the federal government recognizes the unique rural issues on the islands. Three key agenda items are:

- NSAAS will work with legislators to develop an Ag Economic Impact brochure that includes the manufacturing aspects of agriculture, such as packing, processing and other value added activities. This piece will more accurately reflect the impact of agriculture on the entire Puerto Rico economy.
- NSAAS is partnering with legislators to increase support for a program that would allow for the Crop Insurance Corporation to disburse up to 20 percent of the value insured 15 days after a hurricane Category 3 or higher. This is critical for Puerto Rico. As in other states, a significantly destructive natural event would qualify. This would allow farmers to have some cash available to get back on their feet quickly.
- NSAAS will work with legislators and others to assure that Puerto Rico has a significant voice in the development of the 2007 Farm Bill.

*—Marge Kilkelly is director of the Northeast States Association for Agricultural Stewardship. She visited Puerto Rico in December 2006 to learn more about tropical agriculture in advance of discussions on the 2007 Farm Bill and to develop NSAAS priorities for the coming year.*



## *Expedited Partner Therapy Can Be Useful in Treating Chlamydia*

**Expedited Partner Therapy is one option doctors are using to treat the partners of patients diagnosed with chlamydia. This innovative treatment has caused debate in some states about its legality, but a new CDC-sponsored legal analysis available on the Web can help policymakers and health professionals begin discussing what regulations or laws might be standing in the way in their state.**

By Jennifer Ginn

“EPT just seems like it must be wrong to do. ... We don’t regularly allow people to go home with prescriptions for other people. The vast majority of states we studied just simply do not prohibit its practice. I think that’s an important finding that came out of this legal review. That doesn’t mean there’s not a need for legislators to step in and provide strong legal support.”

—James Hodge, executive director  
Center for Law and the Public’s Health

# Battling

## A SILENT ENEMY

Chlamydia can be a silent enemy. Since most people who are infected with this sexually transmitted disease (STD) never experience symptoms, it can remain hidden and possibly damage a woman’s fertility.

So how do we protect against this common but silent STD? Through education, screening and an innovative treatment option called expedited partner therapy.

### Who’s Infected?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), nearly 1 million cases of chlamydia were reported in 2005, making it the most commonly reported infectious disease in the United States. More than 75 percent of the cases were among women, which suggests that many of the women’s sex partners are not being diagnosed, reported and/or treated.

Among women, the infection rate in African-Americans was more than seven times higher than among whites in 2005. American Indian/Alaskan Native women were almost five times and Hispanic women were three times more likely to be infected than white women. Young women were most at risk, with the vast majority of cases being diagnosed in those aged 15–24.

### Why is Screening Important?

Because chlamydia is a silent infection with serious health consequences—yet one that is easily treated and cured with antibiotics—CDC recommends annual screening for all sexually active women 25 years old or younger, as well as older women with risk factors, such as a new sex partner or multiple sex partners.

Chlamydia can cause extensive damage to a woman’s reproductive organs. Untreated, up to 40 percent of women will develop pelvic inflammatory disease and 18 percent will develop chronic pelvic pain and scarring. As many as 20 percent will have fertility problems and if they do become pregnant, one in 10 will have a life-threatening ectopic pregnancy.

According to Partnership for Prevention, chlamydia screening is one of the seven most effective but underused clinical preventive services, with less than 50 percent of people being screened. At its annual meeting in 2006, The Council of State Governments’ Health Policy Task Force adopted a resolution urging states to support use of several preventive services, including chlamydia screening and insurance coverage for those services.

Dr. Bruce Trigg, medical director of the STD Program, Regions 1 and 3, New Mexico Department of Health, said testing

For more information about chlamydia, EPT or the programs covered in this article, visit:

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

<http://www.cdc.gov/std/chlamydia/default.htm> <http://www.cdc.gov/std/ept/default.htm>

**Partnership for Prevention, Priorities for America's Health**

<http://www.prevent.org/content/view/full/46196>

**New Mexico Medical Society, Clinical Prevention Initiative**

[http://www.swcp.com/nmms/subpages/NMMS\\_CPI.htm](http://www.swcp.com/nmms/subpages/NMMS_CPI.htm)

**Washington State Department of Health**

<http://www.doh.wa.gov>



in public health clinics has been common for many years, but now states are pushing to increase the number of people being screened in private doctor's offices and even jails and schools.

"It's relatively recent that screening has become prevalent in the private sector," Trigg said. "It's about 50 to 60 percent of women who should be screened are being screened. Compared to Pap smears, there's a long way to go."

In New Mexico, a unique collaborative group has helped to increase the number of people being screened for chlamydia each year.

"We have collaboration with the private sector called CPI, Clinical Prevention Initiative," Trigg said. "It's a joint effort between the New Mexico Medical Society and the Department of Health. I think it's a good model; it's been going on for several years. The focus is on clinical prevention, ... getting office-based docs to incorporate into their practice evidence-based clinical prevention services."

One of the areas CPI took on was increasing routine chlamydia screening for all sexually active women 25 years or younger; men or women with more than one sexual partner or a recently diagnosed STD regardless of age; and all pregnant women. The effort has included an informational handout for patients, and a Dear Colleague letter and training for health care providers.

Trigg said although tracking the number of patients being screened in private care settings is hard to measure, there has been an increase over time. Still, he said, he is frustrated that New Mexico has not started testing youth in juvenile detention facilities.

"... That really has to do with state and local governments being willing to put money into it," he said.

## What is Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT)?

There are several options to inform, evaluate and treat the sexual partners of patients diagnosed with chlamydia. Traditional practices include the doctor directly contacting the partners, patients encouraging their partners to visit a doctor or patients giving the names of their partners to public health officials to contact. But the high number of chlamydia cases, combined with decreased financial and personnel resources in public health programs, caused researchers to investigate other options to assure partners received treatment.

With EPT, diagnosed patients deliver either medications or prescriptions to their partners. This has caused some concern among states and health care providers because the doctor doesn't actually examine the partner and ask about drug allergies or provide counseling. In some states, doctors could lose their licenses for such action.

Dr. Matthew Hogben, a behavioral scientist at CDC, said the goal with any of these treatment methods is to get the patient's partners notified of their possible infection and treated so reinfection does not occur. While having a doctor or public health official follow-up is ideal, it is rarely a realistic option, he said.

"Something like expedited partner therapy," said Hogben, "... what it seems to do by and large is to either increase the (partner) notification rates or leave them the same. You don't do any worse. ... It raises the treatment rates quite a bit. You end up with more treated partners and more notified partners."

"What we've measured mostly and what is sort of the gold standard is the reinfection of the index case (the original patient). ... If you look across the studies, you will find the rates consistently show about a 20 percent reduction in reinfection. This is not the sole answer, but this is another tool to put in the tool box."

Hogben stressed that the patients should still be counseled about STDs and how to reduce reinfection, information which should be passed along to the partners. Trigg said counseling is easier for him because most of the patients he sees have cell phones. He has his patients get their partner on the phone and he asks them about drug allergies and gives them instructions.

## A New Tool for State Policymakers

Many public health officials and policymakers are uncertain about whether EPT is a legal option in their jurisdictions. In some states, regulations by the medical boards prohibit giving medicine to patients doctors haven't seen. In others, laws may stand in the way.

A new tool on CDC's STD Web site, (available at <http://www.cdc.gov/std/ept/legal/default.htm>), can help policymakers and legislators begin to understand the legal landscape in their state.

The Center for Law and the Public's Health at Georgetown and Johns Hopkins universities and CDC have conducted a legal analysis of the relevant laws and regulations for all 50 states, the

District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The Web site provides a brief description of the laws examined, a judgment about whether EPT is allowed in each state and if not clearly permitted, what laws or regulations may stand in its way.

James Hodge, executive director of the Center for Law and the Public's Health, said the study suggests that EPT is permissible in 11 states, possible in 28 and likely prohibited in 13 states. He cautioned that the Web site is merely a starting point for policy-makers and health professionals to begin talking about EPT, not legal advice or definitive legal opinion.

"EPT just seems like it must be wrong to do," Hodge said. "... We don't regularly allow people to go home with prescriptions for other people.

"The vast majority of states we studied just simply do not prohibit its practice. I think that's an important finding that came out of this legal review. That doesn't mean there's not a need for legislators to step in and provide strong legal support."

## What are States Doing?

The New Mexico Medical Board recently changed regulations in the Medical Practice Act to specifically allow EPT. Trigg said the idea to make the changes came out of the Chlamydia Task Force of the Clinical Prevention Initiative.

"When we were doing the first packet of materials," he said, "questions came up about why don't we just send medicine home? ... That's when we found out the Medical Practice Act specifically banned that. We knew that if we could convince the Board of Medicine, we could possibly change that.

"When we first approached them, they were extremely negative. ... They saw this as an erosion of medical control over prescription medications. What worked out nicely is we began this dialogue with them."

Once again, the collaborative effort paid big dividends.

"The CPI group asked for an endorsement of this change," Trigg said. "The way CPI works, the two groups that have veto power are the New Mexico Medical Society and the Department of Health. So the public health department supported this effort, but the people representing the medical society were hesitant. ... We went to the medical society and they endorsed it unanimously.

"This went to the medical board with the endorsement of the public health department and the medical society. We can say, 'This is the consensus of the medical and public health com-

munity and here's all the studies and CDC recommendations (in favor of EPT).' ... They were willing to listen."

The guidelines for how EPT should be implemented were written by the New Mexico Department of Health.

The King County region of Washington state, which encompasses the Seattle area, has been using EPT since the late 1990s when it was part of a randomized controlled trial on the effectiveness of EPT.

Once patients are diagnosed with either chlamydia or gonorrhea, they are given the option of informing their partners themselves or having a public health official do it. Either the doctor or the public health official can call in a prescription for the partner to one of 12 participating pharmacies located throughout the county, which will provide the drugs at no cost. As a reminder for the doctor, they must fill out a form on the index patient that says either the public health department should contact the partners or they already have been treated.

Dr. Matthew Golden, director of the Sexually Transmitted Disease Control Program for Public Health, Seattle/King County, said the state Medical Quality Assurance Commission had to make a regulatory change to allow EPT. The drugs are paid for with state health department funds and the medicine is less expensive because it is provided at public health pricing. The pharmacies are used, he said, because they are open longer hours than clinics or doctors' offices, which increases the chances that a partner will be treated.

"We have three randomized, controlled trials all demonstrating the benefit of EPT," Golden said. "We have no evidence this is harmful in heterosexuals. There is no evidence this is wrong. We should start taking down the barriers."

Golden said during the next two years, EPT will be rolled out across the state. He stressed that doctors using EPT are not telling partners they don't need to visit a doctor, but this kind of treatment does ensure more people will get treated.

"We just know a lot of people won't do it (notify their partners), particularly asymptomatic men," Golden said. "It would be nice if the world wasn't like that. The most important thing is we get these people treated. ... This is just an additional option."

—Jennifer Ginn is a health policy analyst at *The Council of State Governments*.

**"It's relatively recent that screening has become prevalent in the private sector. It's about 50 to 60 percent of women who should be screened are being screened. Compared to Pap smears, there's a long way to go."**

—Dr. Bruce Trigg, medical director  
STD Program, Regions 1 and 3



# PASSPORT OPPORTUNITY

## *Southern Governors Promote High School Graduation Through Communications Initiative*

**The Southern Governors' Association is working with the Southern Regional Education Board to develop a strategic communications campaign urging at-risk students to stay in school.**

By Jennifer Schwartz and Charlotte Cole

The average high school graduate earns \$337,000 more during his or her lifetime than a high school dropout, according to national statistics.

Exponentially, that translates to millions or billions of dollars in federal, state and local revenue from personal spending and taxes paid on wages earned. For states in the Southern region, this statistic represents one of the greatest opportunities to positively impact the lives of Southern families and kindle overall economic growth and prosperity.

Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, in her role as chairman of the Southern Governors' Association (SGA) in 2005–2006, spearheaded an initiative aimed at improving high school graduation rates and encouraging greater rigor while in school. To advance this project, SGA partnered with the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), which Blanco also chaired during that time period.

“Education in the South—A Passport to Opportunity” is a strategy to help states initiate, through various communications activities, outreach campaigns to students at risk of dropping out of high school. This initiative, which has been funded through a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, aims to help Southern governors, policymakers and educational leaders promote to students the importance of completing high school and working to achieve at the highest level possible. Southern governors recognize the direct link between educational achievement and the state's ability to promote economic development and quality of life in the region, and are working to elevate the effectiveness of education reform efforts.

According to SREB, 11 of 16 Southern states have high school

completion rates below the national average, and 13 lost ground between 1992 and 2002.

“Communication outreach efforts can serve a critical role in helping students and their families locate the state resources that make completing high school prepared for college and the work force feasible,” said Blanco.

Nine states—Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and West Virginia—are participating in the Passport initiative. SGA has hired GMMB, a Washington, D.C.-based strategic communications firm, to develop the communications campaigns.

SGA believes strategic communications campaigns are effective in attracting the attention of students and parents, informing them about high school graduation requirements, and motivating them to take steps that lead to high school completion and readiness for college. Over the past eight months, SGA and GMMB have worked with participating states to research and develop effective messaging strategies targeted to at-risk youth and those who influence them. The groups also conducted a highly effective communications summit in October 2006 to bring all parties together to address the issue.

During the October summit held in Atlanta, subject matter experts met to discuss key messages linked to a variety of services available through highly visible state-sponsored programs, and to develop strategies to promote these messages through Web sites, toll-free numbers, counseling programs and other outreach vehicles to get students' attention, direct them to services and change behaviors. In addition to key messages and strategies directed at at-risk students, summit participants discussed strat-

“If the only person the kid on the street connects with is the local drug dealer, you’ve lost them. We have a responsibility to show them what opportunity looks like through high school achievement and graduation. A diploma is their passport to opportunity.”

—Ed Burns  
Writer/producer  
HBO series, “The Wire”

egies and tactics aimed at those who influence at-risk youth—parents, teachers, counselors, coaches, mentors and members of the faith and business communities.

Keynote speaker Ed Burns, writer and producer of HBO’s popular television series, “The Wire,” challenged participants to look beyond traditional remedies and connect with at-risk youth. The fourth season of “The Wire”, which aired on HBO in the fall of 2006, focused on at-risk youth in the Baltimore city school system. Burns is a former Baltimore policeman turned teacher.

“If the only person the kid on the street connects with is the local drug dealer, you’ve lost them,” said Burns. “We have a responsibility to show them what opportunity looks like through high school achievement and graduation. A diploma is their passport to opportunity.”

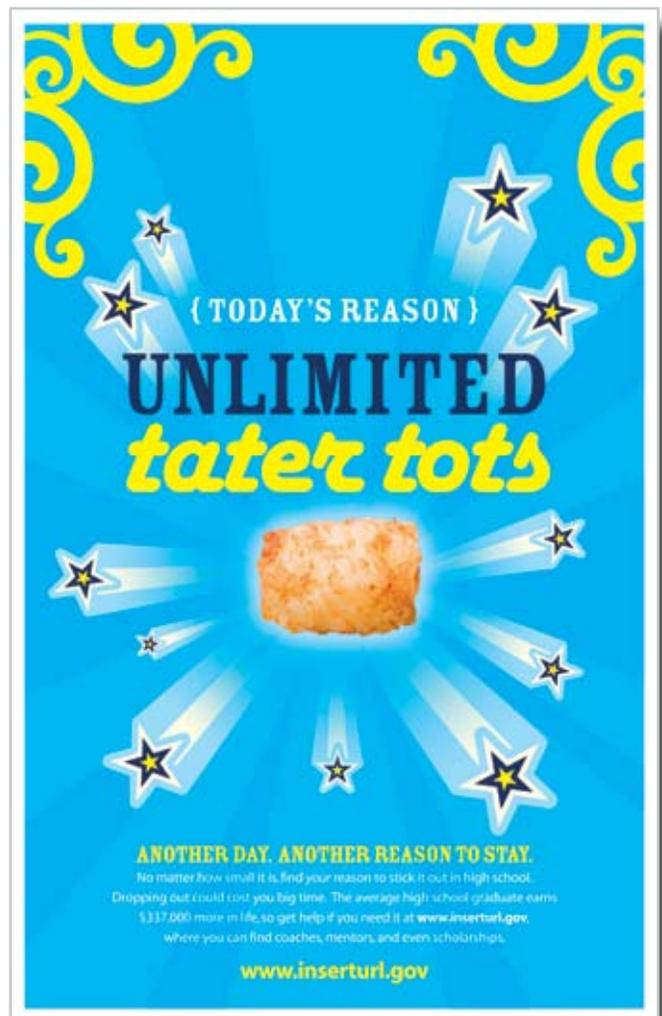
Incorporating research on high school-age youth and using valuable input from each participating state, GMMB developed a customized, comprehensive communications plan for each state. Each plan is supported by a tool kit featuring guidance, materials and templates for plan implementation.

In addition, GMMB developed two distinct campaigns aimed at at-risk youth. “Unlimit Yourself” seeks to communicate the endless possibilities available to those who pursue a higher level of achievement and earn a high school diploma. “Find Your Reason” focuses on the many different personal reasons a high school-age youth may find to stay in school and graduate—some logical and some seemingly frivolous. GMMB also developed a campaign concept aimed at youth influencers.

The plans and tool kit will be posted on SGA’s Web site—[www.southerngovernors.org](http://www.southerngovernors.org)—at the completion of the project, and will be made available for use by other SGA states, as well as states serviced by SREB.

To learn more about Education in the South—A Passport to Opportunity, contact SGA at (202) 624-5897 or visit the SGA Web site at [www.southerngovernors.org](http://www.southerngovernors.org).

—Jennifer Schwartz is director of federal policy and Charlotte Cole is director of communications for the Southern Governors Association.



Tater tots are everyone’s favorite cafeteria food, and the focus of an advertisement encouraging students to find their reason to stay in school and graduate. The ad is part of a larger creative campaign supporting SGA’s Passport to Opportunity education initiative aimed at encouraging at-risk youth to achieve at higher levels and obtain a high school diploma.

# Research to RESULTS



## *South Carolina EPSCoR/IDeA Program is Catalyst for Change*

**The EPSCoR and IDeA programs are federal/state/institutional partnerships that build the research infrastructure in states that historically have received few federal research funds. Bolstered by a merit-review process, these states compete for dedicated federal research funding to build a globally competitive science and engineering work force. South Carolina has used its EPSCoR/IDeA funding in a program to attract junior faculty to the state's universities.**

By Dr. T. Scott Little

South Carolina's Ph.D.-granting institutions are working together to plan a statewide research enterprise that is complementary, not duplicative.

The state's EPSCoR/IDeA strategy has been to support new junior faculty who bring access to specific technologies not represented within the state's higher education institutions. Building core groups of faculty working toward common research objectives enables the acquisition of shared equipment and enhances the research culture in South Carolina.

The state is already seeing dividends from its efforts. Dr. Kenneth L. Reifsnider, one of the world's pre-eminent fuel cell researchers who was recently chosen to head the Solid Oxide Fuel Program at the University of South Carolina, cited the research infrastructure built by EPSCoR/IDeA as a significant factor in accepting the new position. Reifsnider previously worked at the University of Connecticut Global Fuel Cell Center.

With the dynamic environment and new opportunities created by the American Competitiveness Initiative, the SC EPSCoR/IDeA State Committee is developing innovative approaches to sustain and grow the \$500 million academic research enterprise in South Carolina.

Ongoing strategic planning and oversight for EPSCoR/IDeA programs in South Carolina is provided by the vice presidents for research, economic development and health sciences from the state's major research institutions and other public and private sector stakeholders. The South Carolina EPSCoR/IDeA State Committee sets policy and manages the program to ensure alignment with federal, state and institutional research priorities.

State support has been critical in attracting top-tier faculty to South Carolina. In 2002, the General Assembly passed the South Carolina Research Centers of Economic Excellence Act. With



*Dr. Joseph Flaherty and three student researchers at Coker College*



an allocation of \$30 million per year in state education lottery funds, the General Assembly established a program to endow new professorships at South Carolina's three comprehensive research universities: Clemson University, the Medical University of South Carolina and the University of South Carolina. The Endowed Chairs program is highly complementary to the EPSCoR/IDeA focus on junior faculty recruitment, retention and development.

## Partnering To Expand Research Capacity

South Carolina EPSCoR/IDeA is enhancing biomedical research capacity through programmatic expansion and statewide networking of faculty and students' research activities. Recent achievements include establishing new undergraduate and graduate degree programs in biomedical engineering at the University of South Carolina in coordination with a new undergraduate bioengineering degree program at Clemson University. To complement these efforts, the Medical University of South Carolina is building, with resources provided by the Life Sciences Act of 2004, a new bioengineering research facility to be shared by faculty statewide. South Carolina's three comprehensive research universities are integrating these new biological engineering efforts with related undergraduate biology and chemistry programs at South Carolina's leading predominately undergraduate institutions.

To facilitate the coordination of collaborative efforts and promote unified biomedical engineering research and education, the SC EPSCoR/IDeA State Committee established the South Carolina Bioengineering Alliance. The mission of the Alliance is to accelerate the translation of research advances in human health from the laboratory to the patient. The Alliance selected Dr. Richard Swaja as its inaugural director in November 2006. Swaja is a former senior science adviser with the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering of the National

Institutes of Health (NIH) and director of the Life Sciences Division at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL).

"I believe that South Carolina's climate is ripe for a state-wide bioengineering program. We have good facilities and good people in place and we have already seen substantial research advancements here," Swaja said in a Clemson University press release. His broad vision for the Bioengineering Alliance includes developing a nationally recognized bioengineering education program to train workers, increasing technology transfer and enhancing South Carolina's knowledge-based economy.

Swaja, a tenured faculty member at Clemson University, will lead the Alliance from Charleston, S.C., the hub of the state's biomedical research enterprise. Of the current \$104 million SC EPSCoR/IDeA research funds, \$45 million is invested in biomedical research initiatives at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. SC EPSCoR/IDeA has focused the development of its biomedical research expertise in areas of health disparity for the state's citizens, including cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

The institutional network is strengthened by an additional \$9 million investment at the College of Charleston, Charleston Southern University, Claflin University, South Carolina State University, Furman University and Winthrop University to support joint biochemistry, cellular biology, pharmacology and neuroscience programs with the three research universities.

## Technology Transfer and Commercialization

Faculty attracted using SC EPSCoR/IDeA support conduct top quality scientific research that has laid a foundation for increased capacity. A 1991 initiative at the University of South Carolina to develop its materials research capacity resulted in the hiring of Dr. Michael Myrick as junior faculty in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Myrick has since achieved the rank of professor and is the innovative force behind Ometric Corporation,



“I believe that South Carolina’s climate is ripe for a statewide bioengineering program. We have good facilities and good people in place and we have already seen substantial research advancements here.”

—Dr. Richard Swaja, director  
South Carolina Bioengineering Alliance

a 2005 high-tech university spinoff concentrating on the pharmaceutical, chemical and oil industries. Ometric is engaged with the world’s top 10 pharmaceutical companies, including Roche in Switzerland, to enable inline control of chemical processes for pharmaceutical production. The company has recently attracted venture capital investments in excess of \$8.5 million.

Ometric is an exemplary model for industry-university partnerships. These collaborations promote economic growth and an improved quality of life. SC EPSCoR/IDeA creates additional access to more than \$1.7 billion in federal Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) awards through seed grants for small, high-tech businesses. SBIR is a competitive program that encourages small businesses to explore their technological potential and provides the incentive to profit from its commercialization. Ten federal agencies, including the National Science Foundation (NSF), provide about \$1.7 billion annually in the form of SBIR awards to fund research and development efforts in a wide range of topic areas. South Carolina companies currently receive only \$6 million per year from this program.

In order to increase the state’s number of SBIR proposal submissions and awards received, SC EPSCoR/IDeA offers the SBIR Phase-0 seed grant program. The Phase-0 initiative is operated as a merit-reviewed program that supports small businesses that have targeted a specific federal SBIR solicitation for response and have potential to yield a successful SBIR or STTR Phase-I or Phase-II application. To date, investments of \$240,000 in 26 small businesses have stimulated the submission of more than 50 proposals, and garnered more than \$1.8 million in federal awards. This represents a more than seven to one return on the SC EPSCoR/IDeA investment. An additional outcome of the program has been a strong relationship between SC EPSCoR/IDeA and state government. Through this partnership, the South Carolina Department of Commerce provides funding for select Phase 0 proposals.

## Broader Impacts and Outreach

Broader impacts are those synergistic activities of SC EPSCoR/IDeA with and among other ongoing science, mathematics, engineering and technology development initiatives that produce a greater impact than any one initiative could produce alone. Outreach to those faculty and students who have limited access to research is essential. Accordingly, SC EPSCoR/IDeA

is embedded in the development of the research infrastructure of the state’s six predominately undergraduate historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs). These institutions have nearly 100 percent African-American enrollment.

In 2005, SC EPSCoR/IDeA implemented a postdoctoral research career development program to bring postdoctoral fellows, with extensive research experience, into South Carolina’s institutions serving minority students. This program assists postdoctoral fellows from South Carolina’s Ph.D.—granting universities, who have limited exposure to the undergraduate classroom, with the opportunity to develop their instructional skills. Conversely, faculty members at the predominately undergraduate institutions have greater teaching expertise but less exposure to the contemporary research methodology. The postdoctoral fellows are selected to best align the fellows’ research expertise with the institution’s teaching needs. This program is instrumental in expanding access to high-quality academic research throughout the state.

SC EPSCoR/IDeA is also strengthening the network of faculty and research institutions through its Collaborative Research Program (CRP). Faculty use the program to form and develop inter-institutional research teams that will compete for extramural research funds. Additionally, CRP seeks to build and enhance the network of scientists that could develop theme-based research clusters. One of the most productive CRP partnerships has been that between Dr. Joseph Flaherty at Coker College and Drs. Larry Dunkle and Jin-Rong Xu at Purdue University. This collaboration has resulted in a new, advanced research-based course at Coker College, a small liberal arts college. Seventy-five percent of the students enrolled in this course have conducted research under this award. Further, the CRP team anticipates the submission of one or more joint proposals to major federal research programs.

Attraction of world-renowned faculty, development of shared facilities, and expansion of collaborative efforts is evidence of SC EPSCoR/IDeA’s cohesive strategy to align itself with state, institutional and national initiatives which will strengthen South Carolina’s competitive edge in the global economy.

—T. Scott Little, Ph.D., is director, State Office, South Carolina EPSCoR/IDeA.

## SLC Accepting CALS Applications

Applications for the Center for the Advancement of Leadership Skills (CALS) will be available this month.

CALS, designed to prepare emerging and mid-career legislative, executive and judicial branch state leaders for their future roles, embodies the mission of the Southern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments: championing excellence in state government and providing nonpartisan forums for state officials to engage in analytical discussions on important policy issues.

Each annual class of 30 participants will accommodate two state legislators, one from each chamber, and one state official from either the executive or judicial branch, from each of the 10 states comprising the class.

A multi-branch program is unique in that it creates a dialogue among state officials who might rarely cross paths. Particularly compelling is the need for leadership development in the five term-limited state legislatures in the Southern region.

In an effort to maintain a manageable program size, nominations will be solicited from 10 of the region's 16 states, on an alphabetically rotating schedule, thus ensuring that each class

reflects a minimum of legislative participants from at least two of the region's five term-limited legislatures.

CALS will rotate among three sponsoring universities, a unique trait among CSG's leadership programs. The inaugural program, hosted by the University of Arkansas, will convene in the fall of 2007, with the University of Oklahoma serving as host in 2008, and West Virginia University completing the rotation in 2009.

For the 2007 class, applications are being sought from Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri and North Carolina. Applications for the 2008 class will be sought from state government officials from Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia. The 2009 class will consist of applicants from Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.

For applications or more information on applying, contact Nai Hallman, Southern Legislative Conference, at (404) 633-1866, or [nhallman@csg.org](mailto:nhallman@csg.org).

## Applications Deadline Nears for Midwestern Leadership Institute

Applications for the 2007 Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development (BILLD) are due March 26. BILLD is the only leadership training program designed exclusively for newer state legislators in the Midwest. Regional lawmakers in their first four years of legislative service are encouraged to apply.

Each year, BILLD awards fellowships to 36 select legislators in the Midwestern states and provinces to help them develop the skills they need to be effective leaders and policymakers. The 13th annual Bowhay Institute will be held July 13–17 in Madison, Wis. The intensive five-day program is conducted by the Midwestern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments, in partnership with The Robert M. La Follette School of Public Af-

fairs at the University of Wisconsin.

The annual fellowships are awarded on a competitive, nonpartisan basis by the BILLD Steering Committee, a bipartisan group of legislators from each state in the region. Applicants are evaluated based on their leadership potential, including problem-solving skills, their dedication to public service and their commitment to improving the legislative process. Each fellowship covers the cost of tuition, lodging and meals. A nominal travel stipend is also offered to each participant.

For application materials, or more information, contact Laura A. Tomaka at (630) 925-1922 or visit CSG Midwest's Web site at [www.csgmidwest.org](http://www.csgmidwest.org).

## Deadline to Apply for Western Legislative Academy is April 9

The deadline to apply for this year's Western Legislative Academy—CSG-WEST's intensive three-and-a-half day legislative training program—is April 9. The annual program offers legislative training for outstanding newer Western lawmakers.

Admission to the WLA is competitive and limited to lawmakers in their first four years of service. Applicants must be state legislators from Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

Prestigious nationally recognized faculty—including academics, military, corporate trainers, journalists and veteran lawmakers—

will teach at the 2007 Academy. Topics include communications, ethics, consensus building, effective leadership and time management. The class will spend half a day at the U.S. Air Force Academy working on team-building and personal leadership styles.

Since its creation in 2000, the Academy has graduated 263 legislators, many of whom have gone on to leadership positions in state government and beyond.

The 2007 Western Legislative Academy will be held in Colorado Springs, Colo., Nov. 5–8. For more information or for an application, click on the yellow WLA icon at [www.csgwest.org](http://www.csgwest.org) or call (916) 553-4423.

# conferencecalendar

This calendar lists meetings as designated by CSG's Annual Meeting Committee. For details of a meeting, call the number listed. "CSG/" denotes affiliate organizations of CSG. Visit [www.csg.org](http://www.csg.org) for updates and more extensive listings.

## March 2007

- March 11-14 **CSG/National Association of State Treasurers—NAST Legislative Conference**—Washington, DC—Willard InterContinental Hotel. Contact Adnee Hamilton at (859) 244-8174 or [ahamilton@csg.org](mailto:ahamilton@csg.org), or visit [www.nast.org](http://www.nast.org).
- March 14-16 **CSG/National Lieutenant Governors Association—State Federal Meeting**—Washington, DC. For more information, visit [www.nlga.us](http://www.nlga.us).
- March 27-28 **CSG/Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision—Sex Offender Ad Hoc Committee Meeting**—Lexington, KY—ICAOS National Office. Contact Kelli Price at (859) 244-8235 or [kprice@interstatecompact.org](mailto:kprice@interstatecompact.org).
- March 29-31 **CSG/Border Legislative Conference—XV Border Legislative Conference**—Chihuahua, Chihuahua. Contact Edgar Ruiz or Martha Castaneda at (916) 553-4423 ext. 102 & 110 and [er Ruiz@csg.org](mailto:er Ruiz@csg.org) or [mcastaneda@csg.org](mailto:mcastaneda@csg.org) respectively.

## April 2007

- April 10-11 **CSG/Environmental Management and Assessment Program—2007 Symposium**—Washington DC—Grand Hyatt. Contact Krista Rinehart at [krinehart@csg.org](mailto:krinehart@csg.org) or visit [www.csg.org/policy/enviro/UpcomingEMAPMeetings.aspx](http://www.csg.org/policy/enviro/UpcomingEMAPMeetings.aspx) for registration information.
- April 13-15 **CSG/Southern Legislative Conference—LSA Directors' Spring Meeting**—Atlanta, GA—The Ritz-Carlton, Buckhead. Contact Ken Fern at (404) 633-1866 or [kfern@csg.org](mailto:kfern@csg.org).
- Apr: 17-19 **CSG/State International Development Organizations—SIDO 2007 Washington Forum**—Washington, DC—Holiday Inn Georgetown. Contact Ellen Golden at (202) 624-5460 or [egolden@csg.org](mailto:egolden@csg.org).

## May 2007

- May 5 **CSG/NASTD—Technology Professionals Serving State Government—2007 Executive Board Meeting**—Baltimore, MD—Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel. Contact Pamela Johnson at (859) 244-8184 or [pjohnson@csg.org](mailto:pjohnson@csg.org).
- May 5-8 **CSG/NASTD—Technology Professionals Serving State Government—2007 Eastern Region Seminar**—Baltimore, MD—Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel. Contact Pamela Johnson at (859) 244-8184 or [pjohnson@csg.org](mailto:pjohnson@csg.org).
- May 17-19 **CSG Healthy States Policy Development Workshop**—Atlanta, GA—Westin Buckhead and Global Communications Center/CDC. Invitational event for legislators working in the areas of aging, health disparities, and community approaches to wellness. Contact Pam Goins at [pgoins@csg.org](mailto:pgoins@csg.org).
- May 20-23 **CSG/NASTD—Technology Professionals Serving State Government—2007 Midwestern Region Seminar**—Ashland, NE—Eugene T. Mahoney State Park. Contact Pamela Johnson at (859) 244-8184 or [pjohnson@csg.org](mailto:pjohnson@csg.org) or visit [www.nastd.org](http://www.nastd.org).

## June 2007

- June 2-6 **CSG/NASTD—Technology Professionals Serving State Government—2007 Western Region Seminar**—Albuquerque, NM—Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town. Contact Pamela Johnson at (859) 244-8184 or [pjohnson@csg.org](mailto:pjohnson@csg.org) or visit [www.nastd.org](http://www.nastd.org).
- June 10-13 **CSG Spring National Committee and Task Force Meetings**—San Juan, Puerto Rico. Contact Wanda Hines at (859)244-8103 or [whines@csg.org](mailto:whines@csg.org).
- June 10-14 **CSG/National Association of State Chief Administrators (NASCA) & National Association of State Facilities Administrators (NASFA)—NASCA & NASFA National Conference and Resource Expo**—Lake Tahoe, NV—Montbleu Hotel. Contact Marcia Stone at (859) 244-8181 or [mstone@csg.org](mailto:mstone@csg.org) or visit [www.nasca.org](http://www.nasca.org) or [www.nasfa.net](http://www.nasfa.net).
- June 16-20 **CSG/NASTD—Technology Professionals Serving State Government—2007 Southern Region Summer Seminar**—Mobile, AL—

Other meetings have value to state officials. Purchase a meeting listing by calling (800) 800-1910 or by e-mailing [sales@csg.org](mailto:sales@csg.org). Announce your meetings to thousands in the state government market through an advertisement or a Web listing.

The Battle House Renaissance Hotel. Contact Pamela Johnson at (859) 244-8184 or [pjohnson@csg.org](mailto:pjohnson@csg.org).

## July 2007

- July 8-11 **CSG/American Probation and Parole Association—32nd Annual Training Institute**—Philadelphia, PA—Philadelphia Downtown Marriott. Contact Kris at (859) 244-8204 or visit [www.appa-net.org](http://www.appa-net.org).
- July 13-17 **CSG/Midwestern Legislative Conference—13th Annual Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development Program (BILLD)**—Madison, WI—Fluno Center of Executive Education. Contact Laura Tomaka at (630) 925-1922 or [ltomaka@csg.org](mailto:ltomaka@csg.org), or visit <http://www.csgmidwest.org> for more information.
- July 14-18 **CSG/Southern Legislative Conference**—Williamsburg, VA. Contact Nai Hallman at the Southern Legislative Conference at (404) 633-1866 or visit [www.sclatlanta.org](http://www.sclatlanta.org) for additional information.
- July 15-17 **CSG/National Association of State Treasurers—NAST Annual Conference**—New York, NY—The Barclay InterContinental Hotel. Contact Adnee Hamilton at (859) 244-8174 or [ahamilton@csg.org](mailto:ahamilton@csg.org), or visit [www.nast.org](http://www.nast.org).
- July 21-25 **CSG/National Association of State Personnel Executives—2007 Annual Meeting**—Williamsburg, VA. Contact Lisa Collins at (859) 244-8179 or [llcollins@csg.org](mailto:llcollins@csg.org) or visit [www.naspe.net](http://www.naspe.net).
- July 25-28 **CSG/National Lieutenant Governors Association—Annual Meeting**—Williamsburg, Va. For more information, visit [www.nlga.us](http://www.nlga.us).

## August 2007

- Aug. 4-8 **CSG/National Association of Government Labor Officials—2007 Annual Meeting**—Savannah, GA—The Westin Savannah Harbor. Contact Leslie Scott, Association Manager, at (859) 244-8182 or [lscott@csg.org](mailto:lscott@csg.org) or visit [www.naglo.org](http://www.naglo.org).
- Aug. 11-15 **CSG/Eastern Regional Conference—47th Annual Meeting and Regional Policy Forum**—Quebec City, Quebec—Hilton Hotel. Contact Pamela Stanley at (646) 383-5711 or [pstanley@csg.org](mailto:pstanley@csg.org) or visit [www.csgeast.org](http://www.csgeast.org).
- Aug. 23-25 **CSG Healthy States Forum for State Legislators**—New Orleans, LA—Hilton New Orleans Riverside. Contact Pam Goins at [pgoins@csg.org](mailto:pgoins@csg.org).
- Aug. 25-27 **CSG/Southern Governors' Association (SGA)—73rd Annual Meeting**—Biloxi, MS. Contact Liz Purdy at (202) 624-5897 or [sga@sso.org](mailto:sga@sso.org) or visit [www.southerngovernors.org](http://www.southerngovernors.org).
- Aug. 25-30 **CSG/NASTD—Technology Professionals Serving State Government—30th Annual Conference and Technology Showcase**—Minneapolis, MN—Hyatt Regency. Contact Pamela Johnson at (859) 244-8184 or [pjohnson@csg.org](mailto:pjohnson@csg.org) or visit [www.nastd.org](http://www.nastd.org).
- Aug. 26-29 **CSG/Midwestern Legislative Conference—62nd Annual Meeting**—Traverse City, MI—Grand Traverse Resort and Spa. Contact Cindy Andrews at (630) 925-1922 or [candrews@csg.org](mailto:candrews@csg.org), or visit <http://www.csgmidwest.org> for more information.

## September 2007

- Sept. 16-19 **CSG/CSG-WEST—Annual Meeting**—Jackson Lake Lodge, WY. Contact Lolita Urrutia at (916) 553-4423 or [csgw@csg.org](mailto:csgw@csg.org).
- Sept. 16-19 **CSG/National Association of State Treasurers—NAST Annual Conference**—Sunriver, OR—Sunriver Lodge. Contact Adnee Hamilton at (859) 244-8174 or [ahamilton@csg.org](mailto:ahamilton@csg.org), or visit [www.nast.org](http://www.nast.org).

## November 2007

- Nov. 5-8 **CSG/CSG-WEST—Western Legislative Academy**—Colorado Springs, CO. Contact Mary Lou Cooper at (916) 553-4423 or [csgw@csg.org](mailto:csgw@csg.org).
- Nov. 11-14 **CSG Annual State Trends and Leadership Forum**—Oklahoma City, OK. Contact Wanda Hines at (859) 244-8103 or [whines@csg.org](mailto:whines@csg.org).

Although the federal government tends to get more attention, state officials are often on the front lines of cutting-edge trends and issues. On the other hand, sometimes in the community of state governments, the more things change, the more they stay the same.

In print since 1958, *State News* (formerly *State Government News*) has chronicled many of the changes ... and continuities.

Here's what we reported on:

## 40 Years Ago—March 1967

### Constitutional Revision Studied

More than one-third of the states were exploring state constitutional revision through studies or other extensive measures from 1965 to 1967, The Council of State Governments reported in March 1967. Eighteen states had taken action through study commissions or constitutional conventions, while governors of seven other states had called for constitutional revision. Two other states were considering measures for the same purpose.

### Update

*Very few constitutional revision efforts were underway in 2006, according to a report in the upcoming 2007 edition of Book of the States, published by The Council of State Governments. While there were no constitutional conventions in 2006, discussions continued in Alabama and New Jersey. Alabama's Constitution hasn't been revised since 1901. While proponents were unable to persuade the legislature to submit a convention call, the proposal did attract more legislative support than in the past. New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine and the legislature agreed to establish a committee to study the need for a constitutional change. The committee determined a convention was not necessary for the proposed changes in property taxes, but did not rule out a future convention.*

## 25 Years Ago—March 1982

### Voting Rights Act Updated

U.S. Senate reauthorization of the 1965 Voting Rights Act promised to be controversial, according to a story in the March 1982 *State Government News*. The article stated that half the states had passed redistricting plans to reflect the 1980 census, but many were subject to challenge in court or approval by the U.S. Justice Department under the act.

According to the article, the U.S. Supreme Court interpreted Section Two of the Act as requiring proof of an intent to discriminate. The U.S. House extension version, under consideration in 1982, required a showing of discriminatory results in a challenge to a state's reapportionment plan. The provision was challenged in the Senate.

### Update

*President Bush signed the latest update of the Voting Rights Act into law July 27, 2006. Bush's expressed support for the*

*legislation resulted in the largest win in reauthorization of the VRA, with a 390-33 vote in the U.S. House of Representatives. The Senate later approved the bill, which reauthorized the Voting Rights Act for 25 years, on July 19.*

## 10 Years Ago—March 1997

### Ups and Downs of Spending on Environment

A 50-state study by The Council of State Governments' Centers for Environment and Safety released in 1997 found states spent more than \$10.7 billion in fiscal year 1994 on 15 environmental and natural resources categories. Total spending rose \$1.4 billion or 15 percent just from fiscal 1991 to fiscal 1994. Spending during the review period from 1986 to 1994 increased a dramatic 61 percent.

### Update

*Many states made substantial cuts in their environmental spending because of broader budget problems, a survey by the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) found in 2002. The survey found that state budget cuts and reductions resulted in a cumulative \$196.4 million hit for environmental agencies, with another \$217 million cut expected the following year, ECOS reported in the Winter 2002 ECOSates, the organization's quarterly publication. Overall, the cuts averaged slightly more than 1 percent of each state agency's total funding.*



deadline April 2



2007

# • 2007 innovations award

CSG provides insights about major trends to state officials. It also highlights state responses to these trends. Our Innovations Awards Program, now in its 21st year, is a key component of both endeavors. We invite your agency or department to consider applying for a 2007 award.

Qualified programs must address an issue under one of the following categories and related subcategories:

- Infrastructure and Economic Development: Business/Commerce; International Trade; Transportation
- Government Operations: Administration; Elections; Public Information; Revenue
- Health and Human Services: Aging; Children and Families; Health Services; Housing; Human Services
- Human Resources/Education: Education; Labor; Management; Training and Development; Personnel; Workforce Development
- Natural Resources: Agriculture; Energy; Environmental Protection; Natural Resources; Parks and Recreation; Water Resources
- Public Safety/Corrections: Corrections; Courts; Criminal Justice; Drugs; Emergency Management; State Security; Public Safety

Regional panels of state officials review the applications and determine the Innovations Award winners.

Download an application: [www.csg.org/programs/innov/apply.aspx](http://www.csg.org/programs/innov/apply.aspx)  
Contact: Nancy J. Vickers, [nvickers@csg.org](mailto:nvickers@csg.org), (859) 244-8105