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Waste Not, Want Not ... Waste
CSG Regional Projects Assure State Involvement in Movement of Radioactive Waste
By Lisa Janairo, Sarah Wochos, Cort Richardson and Melissa Bailey

It’s What You Know
U.S. Universities Strive to Compete in Knowledge-Based Economy
By Karen Imas

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CSG’s Annual State Trends and Leadership Forum—Oklahoma City, OK
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Southern Governors Discuss Obesity, Insurance, Economics, Energy
By Charlotte Cole and Jon Schweitzer
This Month in the NEWS

CSG Affiliates

Affiliates of The Council of State Governments focus on a wide range of issues related to state government issues. Find out what these groups have going on by clicking on the Affiliates section of the CSG Web site. Activities are also highlighted on the CSG home page, www.csg.org.

Through affiliation with CSG, national organizations of state officials can share ideas and combine efforts to accomplish mutual goals. Affiliates contribute specialized expertise, information, resources and issues to the overall mission of CSG. In turn, CSG offers a mechanism by which affiliates may tap into CSG’s products and services, and a forum for bringing issues to a broader, collective state audience. For more information go to affiliates@csg.org.

Annual Meeting

The Council of State Governments will hold its Annual State Trends and Leadership Forum in Oklahoma City, Okla., Nov. 11–14. For a preview of sessions and events, like the Vince Gill concert scheduled for the meeting, check Capitol Comments regularly. Gill is pictured at right.

Past Meetings

The Council of State Governments Eastern Regional Conference held its 47th Annual Meeting and Regional Policy Forum Aug. 12–15. The 62nd Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Legislative Conference was Aug. 26–29 in Traverse City, Mich. If you missed those meetings, or want to learn more about the CSG Spring Committee and Task Force Meetings in Puerto Rico or the Southern Legislative Conference meeting in Williamsburg, Va., check out the meetings link on Capitol Comments.

What Do You Think?

State News is here to serve you, our membership. Do you have issues you’d like to see us cover? Is something going on in your state that might be helpful to other states in similar situations? Let us know. Visit the CSG Web site, www.csg.org, and click on the Capitol Comments link. Click on the Talk Back link in the blog and give us your input.

Talk Back

What would you like to see covered in Capitol Comments? Click on the Talk Back category link on the CSG blog and give us some ideas of the type of information you seek.

Question:

In what five states are attorneys general appointed by the governor?

To find the answer, log onto CSG’s Web site at www.csg.org!
Re-Entry Policy Council Revamps Web Site

The Council of State Governments Justice Center recently launched a redesigned Re-Entry Policy Council Web site, designed to provide more resources for visitors.

The site is easier to navigate and provides quick access to media coverage, announcements from the field, publications and upgraded tools and materials on a range of re-entry issues.

The Web site also continues to showcase a comprehensive guide published in 2005 that contains hundreds of policy recommendations for legislators, service providers, researchers, criminal justice professionals and others involved in creating and implementing effective re-entry initiatives. Users can access the full report or find specific sections through links on the Web site that are dedicated to particular topics or project work.

The revamped site will also feature a suite of hands-on tools designed to help users apply policy recommendations and other information in the report to their own re-entry programs and initiatives. The council plans to release additional Web-based tools this fall to address the following issues:

- Assessing the risks and needs of people who are incarcerated or released from prison or jail;
- Assessing federal benefits and cash assistance programs that can aid this population; and
- Improving collaborations between community supervision agencies and children and family services.

“The Re-Entry Policy Council Web site is an invaluable resource for anyone involved in prisoner re-entry issues, from policymakers to staff working to carry out those policies every day in their communities,” said New York State Assemblyman Jeffrion Aubry, a CSG Justice Center board member who chairs the Assembly Committee on Correction.

The launch of the new Web site is the first step in the Justice Center’s plan to provide users with a comprehensive online database of re-entry resources, including profiles of local programs, research studies, media articles, legislation, descriptions of local advocacy efforts and examples of coordination by state agencies and community-based organizations to promote integrated re-entry strategies.

Visit the revamped Web site at www.reentrypolicy.org.

Is Teacher Inconsistency Hindering Education?

Just because teachers are being deemed “highly qualified” under the influence of the No Child Let Behind Act, that doesn’t necessarily guarantee that students are benefiting from the federal law, now in its sixth year.

That’s the word from new reports indicating problems abound over the issue.

The law states schools must fill 100 percent of core classrooms with “highly qualified” teachers, who earn that distinction if they have a bachelor’s degree, full certification, and have shown the ability to master the subjects they teach. Mastery is attained by coursework completion, passing state subject-matter tests, or meeting some other state-set criteria.

“I think the high compliance rate suggests there were states that set the bar low and, in a way, grandfathered in a lot of teachers,” said Kerstin Carlson LeFloch, a primary author of “Teacher Quality Under NCLB: Interim Report,” released recently by the U.S. Department of Education. “To get to the real story, you have to look below the surface, and that’s where we’re still seeing variation and still seeing inequities.”

By the end of the last school year, no state reached the 100 percent plateau. On average, states were sitting at 92 percent.

A study by the American Institutes for Research and the RAND Corporation found criteria for handing out the “highly qualified” label differed from one state to the next. In fact, 47 states adopted an option under the law which allows them to set their own criteria for determining high-quality status. In South Dakota, for example, a score of 139 out of 200 on the Praxis II teacher test in middle school mathematics is good enough to gain highly qualified distinction. In Virginia, the lowest a teacher can score to get the same distinction is 163.

There is still debate on the best way to determine a distinction level for teachers. For more information, visit www.edweek.org/ew/srticles/2007/09/05/02hqt.h27.html?tmp=280840458.
States Reap Pre-kindergarten Investment Rewards

Pre-kindergarten programs geared toward 3- and 4-year-olds or children coming from low-income families take less than a decade on average to pay for themselves, according to data from the Economic Policy Institute. These programs will in turn save states, not to mention the federal government, billions of dollars spanning several decades.

According to EPI, Connecticut’s pre-kindergarten investment pays off almost immediately, within a year of program implementation. The EPI data includes analysis pertaining to federal and state budgets, crime costs and the potential earnings of participating children and adults over time. The numbers used in compiling the information are based on pre-K programs, both universal and targeted for children in the bottom 25 percent of income distribution, and when they would eventually pay for themselves.

Not far behind Connecticut, programs in Minnesota, Kentucky, West Virginia and Alaska would pay for themselves within three years.

For more information on each state, visit www.epi.org/newsroom/releases/2007/07/070710statedatalynchpr.pdf.

States Starting Re-Entry Councils

Public safety and decreased corrections spending are two of the goals set by states establishing re-entry councils as people leaving prisons or jails try to rejoin communities across the country.

According to CSG’s Re-Entry Policy Council, these councils are set up with membership from community-based organizations. They take a close look at re-entry practices and make policy recommendations based on their findings.

In May, Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski helped start a council in his state, composed of 19 members from corrections, law enforcement and social service agencies.

Oklahoma, Hawaii, Colorado and Kansas have also taken measures to ease re-entry for recently released inmates as well as help residents deal with the transition process for those inmates.

To learn more about developing effective re-entry policies, visit the Re-Entry Policy Council’s Web site at www.reentrypolicy.org.

Energy Conservation Benefits Companies, Consumers

California has long been the only state to use the decoupling method to conserve energy. That is, until Idaho followed suit this year, and New York and Maryland are not far behind.

The California Public Utilities Commission encourages power companies to limit how much power it sells with assurances that profits won’t decrease. With decoupling, energy regulators allow for a larger kilowatt rate, which in turn lets companies make expected profits and sell lower amounts of electricity. With an annual adjustment, rates can be lowered if profits are higher than anticipated.

Following this approach and even taking it one step further, Idaho launched a plan earlier this year to ensure that power company profits won’t decrease and energy will still be conserved.

For more on California and Idaho’s approach to conserving energy, go to www.cpuc.ca.gov or www.idahopower.com.
Estimated Rail and Truck Shipment Numbers in a Mostly Rail Scenario Using the Caliente Rail Spur

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CSG Regional Projects Assure State Involvement in Movement of Radioactive Waste

The Council of State Governments’ (CSG) Midwestern Office and Eastern Regional Conference have undertaken projects to assure state involvement in planning and executing radioactive waste shipments conducted by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

By Lisa Janairo, Sarah Wochos, Cort Richardson and Melissa Bailey
any state legislator what his or her top five policy issues are and it is unlikely radioactive waste transportation will appear on the list.

Yet virtually all states are affected by shipments of some kind of radioactive waste or materials, tied to activities such as nuclear medicine, electric generation or commercial irradiation services. A large number of shipments involve cleanup of the nation’s former nuclear weapons complex.

An estimated 45 states could someday be on the shipping routes for moving highly radioactive spent nuclear fuel from commercial power plants if the federal government succeeds in building a national repository for the waste in Nevada.

Because of the widespread impact of radioactive waste shipments, The Council of State Governments’ (CSG) Midwestern Office and Eastern Regional Conference have undertaken projects to assure state involvement in planning and executing the shipments conducted by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Funded by cooperative agreements with DOE, the Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Project and Northeast High-Level Radioactive Waste Transportation Project assist state officials by informing them about ongoing shipments and organizing regional committees to work on planning for both current and future shipments.

Through these two projects, states in the Midwest and the Northeast are preparing for the day when hundreds or even thousands of shipments of highly radioactive waste destined for interim storage or permanent disposal facilities travel their roads and rails.

Wisconsin Rep. Phil Montgomery believes the states derive great value from these projects.

“I really believe that the role that CSG has been playing in getting a fairly complex issue down to understandable terms so that legislators can communicate these ideas to their constituents and to their colleagues—it’s just an extremely valuable service for us,” he said.

Robert Owen of the Ohio Department of Health agrees.

“As far as being able to roll up our sleeves and work through these issues with DOE, (the regional committee is) the forum that’s established for that. I think states need to utilize that to the greatest extent possible,” said Owen, co-chair of the Midwest’s regional committee.

Yucca Mountain

Management and disposal of radioactive waste have been concerns for state officials and the public since the dawn of the nuclear era.

It wasn’t until 1982, however, that Congress took up the issue of what to do with the long-lived spent fuel from the nation’s nuclear power reactors. Congress found that deep geologic disposal is the safest solution in the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) of 1982. In 2002, Congress designated Yucca Mountain, Nev., as the site for a federal repository. Under the NWPA, the federal government is responsible for disposing of spent fuel from the nation’s fleet of commercial nuclear reactors, which currently generate around 20 percent of the electricity in the U.S.

Progress on Yucca Mountain has been delayed by management, legal and political problems, including strong opposition by officials in Nevada. According to Connecticut’s Edward Wilds, co-chair of the regional committee in the Northeast, the biggest obstacles to Yucca Mountain are “based on politics, not a technical basis.”

“In Connecticut, the public is more supportive of Yucca Mountain. If I ask someone in Waterford, they see the benefit. But Congress is not in touch with the average person,” said Wilds.

The NWPA committed DOE to begin taking possession of the nation’s spent fuel in 1998. According to DOE’s latest “best achievable schedule,” Yucca Mountain may begin accepting waste in 2017, provided the department meets a June 2008 deadline for submitting its license application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

DOE has already missed its self-imposed deadline twice.

Because of the federal government’s slow progress in constructing a repository, commercial power plants were forced to begin storing spent fuel on site in dry casks constructed of steel and concrete. In fact, there are 42 of these dry cask storage facilities at nuclear power plants in the U.S. Plant operators, legislators and the public are concerned Yucca Mountain’s chronic delays will turn these dry storage systems into de facto disposal sites—something they were not designed to be.

Delays in the repository project are tied to a mountain of financial problems.

“In order to move Yucca Mountain forward, it will take a huge infusion of money,” said Jane Beetem of the Missouri...
have to bite the bullet and utilize some better,” said Charles Pray of Maine. “If we want to become energy inde-

Portance of developing a trans-

importance of developing a trans-

Yucca Mountain, the states recognize the importance of developing a transport system for moving waste safely and securely. Through the CSG regional projects, the states are developing policies and procedures to govern DOE’s transportation system. Shipments will move by truck, train and potentially barge, and will travel through 45 states.

Given the significant impact shipments will have on the nation, the states believe they should have primary input into decisions such as the selection of routes. The Midwest and the Northeast conducted regional route analyses and presented to DOE potential routes that met each region’s criteria for safety. The regions’ input provided a starting point for DOE’s national discussions on route selection, which commenced this year.

To ensure public safety, the states will also be involved in both point-of-origin and en route inspections of the shipments. All shipments will be thoroughly inspected before starting the trip to Yucca Mountain, and en route inspections will confirm that packaging and equipment are in the same condition, and radiation emissions are in the same range, as at the onset of the journey.

Highway shipments are relatively easy to stop and inspect, and states have long been using uniform inspection criteria developed by the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA). Inspecting rail shipments, on the other hand, presents greater logistical challenges, and there is no uniform standard for state inspections. Having identified this need, Midwestern and Northeastern states are taking the lead in developing a uniform standard analogous to what CVSA has done for truck shipments.

An important aspect of transportation planning is shipment security. Shipments of spent fuel have long been subject to security measures, such as escorts, that are designed to protect the waste from being released either by accident or as a result of sabotage. The NRC regulates shipment security, and DOE has committed to meeting or exceeding these federal standards for shipment security.

To maintain a direct link to shipments in transit, states are likely to provide shipment escorts even if DOE arranges for its own escorts.

Besides inspecting and escorting shipments, the states will also work with local governments to give emergency responders the information and training they need to respond to accidents involving shipments. Under the NWPA, DOE must provide affected states and tribes with funding and technical assistance to prepare for emergency response as well as activities that contribute to safe transportation, such as inspections.

In 2004 and 2005, the states in the Northeast and the Midwest contributed heavily to DOE’s draft policy and procedures for implementing this part of the NWPA, called Section 180(c). DOE published the draft procedures in the Federal Register on July 23. The states are now reviewing the notice and will have an opportunity to pilot test the grant procedures in the future.

Waste Transportation

Regardless of what happens with Yucca Mountain, the states recognize the importance of developing a transport system for moving waste safely and securely. Through the CSG regional projects, the states are developing policies and procedures to govern DOE’s transportation system. Shipments will move by truck, train and potentially barge, and will travel through 45 states.

Given the significant impact shipments will have on the nation, the states believe they should have primary input into decisions such as the selection of routes. The Midwest and the Northeast conducted regional route analyses and presented to DOE potential routes that met each region’s criteria for safety. The regions’ input provided a starting point for DOE’s national discussions on route selection, which commenced this year.

To ensure public safety, the states will also be involved in both point-of-origin and en route inspections of the shipments. All shipments will be thoroughly inspected before starting the trip to Yucca Mountain, and en route inspections will confirm that packaging and equipment are in the same condition, and radiation emissions are in the same range, as at the onset of the journey.

Highway shipments are relatively easy to stop and inspect, and states have long been using uniform inspection criteria developed by the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA). Inspecting rail shipments, on the other hand, presents greater logistical challenges, and there is no uniform standard for state inspections. Having identified this need, Midwestern and Northeastern states are taking the lead in developing a uniform standard analogous to what CVSA has done for truck shipments.

An important aspect of transportation planning is shipment security. Shipments of spent fuel have long been subject to security measures, such as escorts, that are designed to protect the waste from being released either by accident or as a result of sabotage. The NRC regulates shipment security, and DOE has committed to meeting or exceeding these federal standards for shipment security.

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Learning for the Future

Working with the Yucca Mountain project involves planning for shipments far into the future. But several states in the Midwest and the Northeast are al-
ready feeling the impact of DOE’s radioactive waste shipments and are gaining experience that will inform their oversight of future shipments.

In 2003, DOE shipped nearly 26 metric tons of waste by train from West Valley, N.Y., to a federal facility in Idaho. The two regions worked with DOE to identify the route, inspected the shipment at the point of origin and en route, and performed near real-time monitoring of the shipment while it traveled.

The states have had similar involvement with shipments of transuranic waste from the nation’s nuclear weapons production plants to DOE’s Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in Carlsbad, N.M. WIPP is the federal site designed to receive the nation’s transuranic waste generated through defense-related activities.

Since 2002, 33 shipments of transuranic waste have passed through the Midwestern states on their way to WIPP or to interim facilities. The Northeast has a small quantity of transuranic waste earmarked for disposal at WIPP. Under the federal law that governs the WIPP site, DOE provides affected states with financial assistance to defray the costs states incur as a result of the shipments. CSG has facilitated the states’ receipt of this financial assistance in the Midwest and will do the same for states in the Northeast.

The regions have long been among CSG’s greatest strengths, and the logic of a regional approach to resolving issues is evident in the transportation projects. Given the wide variations in state approaches to and experiences with radioactive waste transportation, working with states on a regional basis is more efficient than working with states individually.

At the other extreme, reaching out to states on a national basis can obscure the unique regional perspectives and needs that, if ignored, can result in conflict. The interest of the Northeastern states, for example, has been foremost about getting rid of the accumulated waste. For many Northeastern officials, initiation of a major spent fuel shipment campaign cannot start soon enough considering the potential health and safety liability and the continuing expense for ratepayers of storing waste on site at power plants.

The Midwestern states, on the other hand, place equal emphasis on having DOE remove their waste and having substantive involvement in planning and overseeing shipping campaigns. Between 25 percent and 30 percent of the spent fuel destined for Yucca Mountain will come from Midwestern plants, and much of the waste in the Northeast and the South could eventually move through the Midwest. As the likely corridor for transporting so much of the nation’s spent fuel, the Midwestern states are determined to make sure DOE’s transportation system bears their imprint.

The regional committees not only help to build consensus on transportation issues, they also give states a chance to learn from others’ experiences.

“We learn from each other,” said Beetem. “We learn from each other,” added Owen. “Each state is able to bring their history to the table and what they’re planning to do compared to other states. We are able to see what works and what doesn’t work … so you don’t have to do this by yourself.”

The experience in the Northeast is similar.

“I have a better understanding of the inner workings of DOE and a better understanding of the challenges around transportation,” said Rich Pinney of New Jersey. “When we have shipments from New Jersey, we will have to coordinate carefully with other states around routing, inspections, etc. It is good to start working with other states now.”

As Congress and the administration grapple with the myriad of issues surrounding Yucca Mountain, the states in the Northeast and the Midwest will continue to work through CSG’s regional projects to plan and prepare for ongoing and future shipments.

Olson, reflecting on his recent appointment to the committee, looks forward to the challenge.

“Even though I’ve only been a part of this for the past six months, it’s been a very good learning experience,” he said. “I look forward to putting a little time in on the committee.”

—Lisa Janairo is a senior policy analyst and Sarah Wochos is a policy analyst for the CSG Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Project. Cort Richardson is program director and Melissa Bailey is a policy analyst for the CSG Northeast High-Level Radioactive Waste Transportation Project.
U.S. Universities Strive to Compete in Knowledge-Based Economy

The United States set the standards for higher education in the 20th century, but is now falling behind other countries in a knowledge-based economy. Changes in financing higher education are needed for U.S. students to compete in the global economy.

By Karen Imas
the economy increasingly becomes knowledge-based, higher education will require greater investment and innovation, making reform critical to North America’s ability to compete in a global economy.

“When I see my students graduate, I think of Thomas Friedman’s book, _The World Is Flat_,” said Pierre Moreau, president of the Université du Québec and vice president of the Conference of Rectors and Principals of Québec Universities. “I wonder if they realize they are competing with accountants, engineers and health care professionals from countries like China and India.”

Moreau and Patrick Callan, president of the National Center for Public Policy in Higher Education (NCPPHE), discussed higher education financing during a panel discussion at the August annual meeting of The Council of State Governments’ Eastern Regional Conference.

The United States set a world standard for instruction, research and service in higher education in the 20th century, yet American higher ed is frequently outperformed by schools in other countries. The U.S. is slipping relative to many other countries in developing a skilled and knowledgeable work force.

According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the U.S. ranks sixth in the percentage of 20- to 24-year-olds with a high school diploma. The U.S. has slipped to fifth in the percentage of 18- to 24-year-olds enrolled in college, and ranks in the bottom half of countries—16th of the 27 countries with data—in the proportion of students who complete college certificate or degree programs.

According to Moreau, Europe is far ahead of North America in terms of university transfers and allowing students mobility between colleges in different European Union countries. He believes North American countries need synchronization in their education systems to produce competitive students who can compete with Asia’s “3 billion new capitalists.”

Moreau said there is a sense of urgency to implement change, which requires political leadership. He recommends financing student mobility between universities and harmonizing credit transfer; emphasizing language training; increasing funding for transdisciplinary research among North American universities; and increasing investment in adult work force training.

A large percentage of the U.S. work force in science and technology comes from highly motivated and able international students. The National Commission on Accountability in Higher Education, launched by the State Higher Education Executive Officers, reported that as other nations compete more successfully for scientific talent, the U.S. cannot rely on imported talents to meet future needs. The commission is reviewing ways states have improved performance in higher education and their experience in using accountability systems toward that end.

With the U.S. falling in the ranks in postsecondary education among other developed countries, Callan urged an end to legislative passivity. Callan said the federal and state governments must incorporate international benchmarks and advances into education policy considerations and into assessment of progress and success.

Educational attainment of residents is another challenge states face. According to Callan, many of the country’s most educated workers are nearing retirement, while growing numbers of younger residents are ethnic minorities who are less likely to finish high school, enroll in higher education or receive degrees.

For example, in 16 states, a smaller proportion of young adults (ages 25 to 34), as compared to older adults (ages 35 to 64), have an associate degree or higher. These 16 states include the fastest-growing states in the country, including Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Nevada and Texas.

“The baby boomer generation, which has been America’s most educated generation, is retiring,” said Callan. “As they leave the work force, we need to fill this gap and remain competitive.”

He added the U.S. needs “something like a 21st century G.I. Bill to educate these groups.”

Callan recommends greater government investment in public universities so tuition does not substantially increase, but said “we can’t just buy ourselves out of this problem.”

State officials are examining different models for higher education that include more two-year programs and technical certificates. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts a 35 percent increase in the number of jobs requiring associate degrees between 2000 and 2010. Compensation for graduates with technical degrees is growing faster than for graduates of many traditional four-year degree programs.

The transition from high school to college has become a focal point for educators and lawmakers. Only 68 percent of ninth graders graduate from high school in four years, and only 18 percent complete an associate degree within three years. In a recent ACT poll, 65 percent of college professors said they do not believe high school standards prepare students for college.

Many professors believe teachers are covering too many subjects too broadly, when only a few core subjects should be taught, and basic skills should be well-developed in all students.

In March, Texas Gov. Rick Perry appointed a 21-member commission to “provide a forum to exchange views on aligning high school curriculum with college standards.” A bill passed last year in Texas requires “teams of educators to define college readiness and the State Board of Education to realign high school curriculum and develop online instructional resources for students and professional development for educators.”

College preparedness will go a long way in helping students complete their degrees, but the lack of resources for public universities clearly impacts education quality and accessibility. Lack of funding also has far reaching effects on work force development, technical assistance programs and cutting edge research and technology.

Some universities have research facilities and an educated work force that attract businesses, particularly high-tech companies and enterprises. Such research corridors—including Route 128 in Boston, the University of North Carolina Research Triangle and Silicon Valley in California—are a boon for economic development.
Most universities successful in technology transfer have substantial research funding from the federal government. Federal funding, particularly from the U.S. Department of Defense and the National Institutes of Health, normally accounts for the majority of the universities’ research expenditures.

Affordability and Accessibility

Changes in state funding, tuition and financial aid have made postsecondary affordability a growing problem in the past 20 years. While the average cost of college tuition has risen by 110 percent during that time, median family income has risen by only 27 percent, according to the College Board.

State support for higher education sagged during the fiscal crunch in recent years. Funding is growing slowly in parts of the country this year, but rising tuitions are still a major issue at both public and private institutions.

Rutgers University President Richard L. McCormick said 2007 state budget appropriations are “critically needed after the deep cuts of the past year and we welcome them as progress in the right direction … With the additional state support, we will avoid the steep budget shortfall that made the current year such a challenge.” He added, however, that given the overall modest increase in state funding, Rutgers still will face difficult budget decisions merely to meet contractual, inflationary and other mandatory increases in FY2007–08.

While the legislature added some small project-specific increases for Rutgers, the budget does not include state support for new contractual salary increases for employees. A significant portion in The College of New Jersey’s tuition increase this year is to cover the cost of salary increases among its faculty, said President Barbara Gitenstein.

Private institutions are doing more to lure top professors, and faculty retention has become a hot-button issue for the most competitive public universities. The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation pledged up to $113 million to the University of California-Berkeley. The foundation will give $3 million to the school’s endowment, but the remaining money must be matched by individual donations of $1 million to $1.5 million. The donation, the largest in school history, will help pay for faculty research and graduate student expenses, two areas that public universities increasingly have had trouble financing.

Public universities are increasingly tacking on fees to finance programs, particularly when legislatures shy away from tuition increases. At slightly more than half the nation’s four-year public colleges, fees rose faster than tuition from 2004 to 2006, according to the College Board, which tracks trends in college costs. Overall, in 2005–06, fees rose by an average of 8 percent to 11 percent at public four-year institutions, well above the inflation rate.

For example, at Binghamton University, part of the State University of New York, undergraduate state residents pay $831 in fees per semester for athletics, technology, transportation, recreation and other items for $2,175 in tuition.

Meanwhile, Oregon’s economy this year allowed the legislature to exceed the budgetary appropriation proposed by Gov. Ted Kulongoski. He signed a budget that called for the Oregon University System to receive 23 percent, or about $164 million more support in 2007-09 than during the previous two years. A major portion of the increased funds will go toward making higher education more affordable.

Congress Passes Bill Raising Grant Limits

From 1991 to 2001, the purchasing power of a Pell Grant—the largest need-based financial aid program in the country—decreased by half. Congress approved a $20.2 billion boost in financial aid for college students, a package that supporters said would be the single largest increase in federal tuition funding since World War II.

Passage of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act comes at a time when college costs have soared. It also coincides with increased scrutiny of the $85 billion student loan industry, which has been shaken by recent scandals involving conflicts of interest among lenders and school officials, as well as kickback schemes.

The legislation would increase the maximum Pell Grant to $5,400 over five years, and cut student loan interest rates in half—paying for the changes with cuts in subsidies provided to lenders. While Republicans and lenders have opposed parts of the legislation, Education Secretary Margaret Spellings is recommending that President Bush sign the bill because it “answered the president’s call to significantly increase funding” for Pell Grants for low-income students.

The increase in the Pell Grants and the reduction in interest rates would help students, but some studies show these reforms only scratch the surface. Pell Grants represent only 10.7 percent of all sources of student aid, whereas federal loans account for nearly half of all student aid.

The OECD reported in 2007 that despite the expenditure of considerable government funds through direct provision, grants, tax concessions and loans, significant financial barriers to accessing higher education still exist.

Alternative loans are a growing share of the higher education market, in part because the borrowing limit for federally subsidized Stafford loans for dependent students is capped at $23,000, the amount it’s been since 1992, despite rising tuition costs.

“Student loans provide the most efficient and equitable means of overcoming these barriers. The loan program in the United States compares favorably with those in other countries, although there is room for improvement. Most important, student loan limits should be raised substantially, especially for unsubsidized direct loans, so as to cover the full cost of study, including living costs. Doing so would benefit students and promote access at little cost to the government,” the OECD report said. The loans would have high limits and income contingent repayments.

However, detractors say excessive student borrowing can force students and their families to take on unmanageable levels of debt. Sixty-four percent of students today are graduating with an average loan debt of almost $17,000—up significantly from $9,188 in 1993.

That, too, illustrates the need for changes in higher education financing if the U.S. hopes to increase its standing in the global economy.

“The knowledge-based economy punishes undereducated communities,” said Callan.

—Karen Imas is director of communications and leadership training for The Council of State Governments Eastern Regional Conference.
THE BIOTECH

Lawmakers Consider Economic Impact of Growing Industry
Legislators from around the country met in Boston in August to contemplate the economic promise and benefits of biotechnology.

By Sean Slone

Biotechnology is a field that holds great promise not only for medicine but also for states hoping to improve their economic development prospects by attracting biotech companies that will build new facilities and create new jobs.

More than 20 state legislators from around the country met Aug. 1–3 in Boston to contemplate the economic promise of biotechnology at a health policy forum hosted by The Council of State Governments (CSG) through support from Wyeth Pharmaceuticals.

Legislators at the forum came from states still seeking their own piece of the biotech pie as well as from states like Massachusetts, which already has a well-developed biotech industry and the respected academic institutions to train the work force for it. They also came from states like Pennsylvania, where Gov. Ed Rendell has promised huge infusions of cash for bioscience researchers in industry and academia through the Jonas Salk Legacy Fund. Pennsylvania is already a leader in biotech research, but is looking to become even stronger.

“If my constituents only knew the number of mice in their backyards, I might never get re-elected,” joked Pennsylvania Sen. Andrew Dinniman.

Biotechnology relies on living organisms to create commercial products such as vaccines. Whereas traditional pharmaceutical drugs are small chemical molecules, biotech products are large complex molecules that can target diseases traditional drugs cannot. Biotech products include treatments for diabetes, cancer and rheumatoid arthritis.

The U.S. biotech industry supports 1,452 companies (43 percent of all public biotech companies in the world), which account for 180,800 jobs (at an average of $60,000 a year) and $55.5 billion in revenue.

The industry can be divided into three distinct stages according to how far along a given biotech product is in development. It begins with scientific discovery, often at the university level where federal funds support research. Private capital is then needed as a biotech firm emerges to apply the discovery and build facilities to develop it into a product. The final phase is manufacturing the product.

Lengthy research and development phases are generally required before biotech products ever make it to the marketplace. They must also be approved by the Food and Drug Administration, although some companies fail to ever bring a product to market. Of the 4,800 biotech companies in the world, fewer than 100 have at least one commercial product.

“No amount of money can force a discovery whose time is not right,” said Dr. Paul Anderson of Harvard Medical School.

The investments and tax incentives offered to bring biotech firms into a state can be a huge gamble.

“We’re not looking at the typical economic development model,” said North Dakota Rep. Kim Koppelman, chair-elect of CSG.

Large biotech facilities can challenge local infrastructure and strain local resources. Some can require 1 million gallons of water a day to operate.

At the same time, the industry depends on a well-educated, well-trained work force, making good schools at all levels a key concern. Individuals with advanced degrees are needed in the initial research and development phase, while individuals with good basic science and laboratory skills are needed as the company moves into the manufacturing phase. High school graduates and individuals with associate degrees can find entry-level employment in the industry at this stage.

Improving education to meet the needs of the biotech industry was clearly on the minds of lawmakers in Boston.

Kansas Rep. Lana Gordon sees a need for a complete overhaul of the education system and a shift in focus from graduation requirements to understanding how learning can be applied to “real life” endeavors such as biotechnology.

“When you give meaning to it, kids are more willing to learn, and you can see where their talents might be,” she said.

Colorado Rep. Jim Riesberg, who has sponsored successful legislation to provide grants for bioscience research, told meeting attendees about a plan to get researchers at companies that receive grants to share their findings with K–12 science classes to spark student interest.
Dinniman said it’s important to remember that “education works as a continuum.” He spoke about the need to tie universities and community colleges together. Community colleges can play roles both in educating entry-level biotech workers and in retraining those with advanced degrees to take on new tasks. Dinniman said he’d also like to see funding for community colleges tied to how much they contribute to economic development within the regions they serve.

Massachusetts Rep. Alice Wolf discussed a certificate program in her state that trains students for entry-level biotech jobs. Her state is also looking to get students interested in biotechnology at an early age. Through its BioTeach program, Massachusetts provides laboratory equipment and professional development resources that will enable every public high school in the state to teach biotechnology by 2010.

Nevada Assemblywoman Valerie Weber said while supporting education is important, the biotech firms often need assistance as they are trying to get started. “They are the risk takers who create jobs,” she said.

Conference attendees heard about the development of life sciences “greenhouses” in Pennsylvania, which provide early-stage risk capital and support to help commercialize promising technologies and startup companies. The state allocated $100 million from the national tobacco settlement to fund the greenhouses. States such as Maryland also provide incubator facilities for biotech startups.

Some legislators’ interests in biotechnology go deeper than the ways the industry can benefit their states economically. Arizona Sen. Carolyn Allen is a rheumatoid arthritis sufferer who said she doesn’t want future generations to have to live with the disease. “It’s personal with me,” she said.

Nevertheless, finding the money to support the industry is often difficult. “It’s a struggle for the legislature to understand the benefits of this and to get the public to understand it,” Allen said.

Some believe it may take an appeal to America’s competitive nature before the commitment to biotechnology is fully there. Arkansas Sen. James Luker recalled being a high school freshman in 1957 as the Russians were launching Sputnik.

“Maybe we need another shock to the system to get us focused,” he said.

According to Wyeth executive Cavan Redmond, who spoke to the legislators in Boston, that shock could come from a small country like Ireland, where low corporate tax rates, economic incentives and investments in bioscience education have attracted Wyeth and other biotech firms to build manufacturing sites.

It could also come from two sleeping tigers in Asia that are quickly waking up. China is giving biotech startups priority status for bank loans and government grants as well as tax breaks for research. More than 300 companies and more than 20 biotech parks already dot the Chinese landscape. India has attracted 320 firms with large government investments in biotech research and an effort to link universities to the private sector.

Redmond said while the U.S. approach to attracting biotech is state-by-state and even city-by-city with everyone competing against each other, these other countries are making coordinated national efforts that are better organized, well-financed and focused on the future. This allows them to build biotech plants cheaper, faster and with less paperwork.

Many at the meeting said establishing regional multi-state partnerships could prove beneficial in competing for biotech firms. In doing so, it’s important for each state to identify what it does best and not try to duplicate what successful states have already done in the biotech arena.

Redmond predicts at least one state or region no one can foresee now may be a biotech leader in five years, joining states like California, Massachusetts and North Carolina. It’s not a goal all states will or even can realize, but many are willing to make the effort. According to the Biotechnology Industry Organization, 40 states are targeting the biosciences; 37 have bioscience incubators; 33 fund or offer tax credits for bioscience research and development facilities; and 28 have a bioscience strategy in place.

But some contend the U.S. may need to change some long-held principles to maintain its status as the worldwide leader in the biotech industry.

“Economic development is necessarily competitive; scientific development is cooperative,” said Puerto Rico Sen. Jose Garriga Pico.

The intersection of the two presents enormous challenges for states but also enormous opportunities for health care and for future economic vitality.

—Sean Slone is a health policy analyst at The Council of State Governments.
The Southern states, led by Louisiana, have been successful in luring Hollywood production companies through various incentives. The payoffs are not only economic, but also through increased tourism.

By Sujit M. Canagaratna
This photo is a scene from “Four Sheets to the Wind,” a film written and directed by Oklahoman Sterlin Harjo that shot in Tulsa and Holden—ville and was selected for competition at the 2007 Sundance Film Festival. The cast members are, left to right, Jeri Arredondo, Tamara Podemski and Cody Lightning. Tamara Podemski received the 2007 Sundance Best Actress Award.

Photo Courtesy: Chuck Foxen and Oklahoma Film & Music Office
For more than a century, the motion picture industry—symbolized by Hollywood—has been recognized internationally as an American phenomenon.

Ever since 1891, when Thomas Alva Edison and his British assistant, William Kennedy Laurie Dickson, invented the Kinetophonograph, a device that synchronized film projection with sound from a phonograph record, America’s influence in the development and advancement of this industry has been pre-eminent.

By the early 1920s, most American film production had moved from the East Coast to Hollywood, lured there by a range of incentives offered by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

That trend continues with nearly every state offering incentives to attract filmmakers to work within their borders. Thanks to a weakening U.S. dollar, technological advances and the high cost of production in California, states are getting a piece of the $60 billion film industry pie.

Economics Lure Filmmakers Overseas

While California, specifically Hollywood, remains the fulcrum of the U.S. motion picture industry, the state, by its own admission and the analysis of independent observers, remains a high-cost location for many businesses, including the film industry.

In the late 1980s, movie producers saw an opportunity to lower overall costs by filming in foreign locations.

Another factor that allowed producers to effectively use this option was the technological advances in film production. This allowed films to be shot outside the major production centers in California.

In an effort to take advantage of studios seeking lower production costs, foreign countries began aggressively pursuing American filmmakers by offering a range of economic incentives.

Canada ranked very high among the foreign nations that pursued these U.S. productions and was successful in recruiting a plethora of movies filmed in the Canadian provinces.

Similarly, Britain, Mexico, Australia, the Czech Republic and other Eastern European locales soon ranked high as alternate filming locations for hundreds of U.S. movies and television shows. Consequently, by the late 1980s and throughout the 1990s, the blend of financial incentives offered by these foreign countries and a strong U.S. dollar made filming outside the U.S. a sound fiscal decision.

Declining Dollar Lures Film Industry Home

An interesting twist of events, however, turned things around for the American movie industry beginning around 2000. During the past seven years, the steady depreciation of the U.S. dollar has proved to be an unexpected boost to the domestic film industry.

During the 1980s and 1990s, American film producers took advantage of the U.S. dollar appreciating, vis-à-vis the major world currencies, and made films overseas. The steady erosion in the value of the U.S. dollar, however, made filming outside the U.S. increasingly expensive. This development has led American movie producers to seriously consider locations at home in an effort to curtail their costs.

Alert state lawmakers deftly stepped into this fortuitous set of circumstances and quickly devised a range of incentives to further reinforce the likelihood that these movies would be made in the United States.

Led by the incentives introduced by Louisiana in 2002, a development that has resulted in the state now being referred to as Hollywood South, states in every part of the country offer a range of tax incentives and other benefits to lure filmmakers to operate within their borders. New Mexico, led by former Gov. Bill Richardson, is another state that saw the movie industry as a potential revenue generator and worked aggressively to market itself as a viable alternative to film producers.

Six Primary Incentives

The financial incentives offered by states to attract the movie industry have centered on the following six general areas:

- **Sales and Use Taxes**: Money spent within a state on goods and services by filmmakers are subject to state and local sales taxes. These taxes may be waived as part of the incentive package provided by a state. Generally, this is accomplished by providing the production company a state-certified coupon that waives sales tax at the point of sale, or the state may refund the sales tax after filmmakers submit expense reports breaking down the qualified expenditures.
Hotel Taxes: Waiving the hotel tax for qualifying stays by filmmakers. Given that all out-of-state labor—or even out-of-area labor—requires overnight stays in area hotels, this benefit is a further incentive to filmmakers contemplating bringing in out-of-area labor. While a qualifying stay generally involves at least 30 days of consecutive nights, the tax credit or rebate is applied either to the total stay, or to all nights past the required minimum. This incentive is particularly attractive to feature filmmakers working in a location for extended periods.

Labor Taxes: Subsidizing the cost of in-state labor. This incentive generally takes the form of a tax credit for a portion of the in-state labor costs. States provide this incentive so filmmakers hire local, rather than out-of-state.

Investment Credits: This category includes some of the most generous incentives offered by states and enables filmmakers to recoup some of the costs of investing in the film's infrastructure.

Flat Rebate or Credit: A blend of several incentives. For instance, states might provide a flat rebate or credit as a percentage of all spending that occurs in a state, such as labor, hotels, retail, investment and other qualifying expenditures.

Fee-Free Filming: Many states provide state parks, municipal and state buildings, and other public property available, to filmmakers’ free-of-charge. In certain settings, the state might also arrange for public employees, such as the police, to be available free of any charges.

Revenues and Jobs
The motion picture industry represents an economic engine that creates billions of dollars in positive economic flows and hundreds of thousands of jobs in practically every corner of America.

According to the latest 2007 economic impact report released by the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA), the trade association of the American film industry, the motion picture and television production industries

- contribute $60.4 billion to the U.S. economy;
- create jobs for more than 1.3 million Americans; and
- generate $10 billion in income and sales taxes that translates into an estimated $200,000 a day pouring into the coffers of the local governments in cities and towns across the United States.

At a time when America’s trade deficit has soared to unprecedented heights, the motion picture industry maintains a positive, or surplus, balance of trade with the rest of the world, estimated at $9.5 billion.

Huge Economic Impact
The economic impact numbers for states in CSG’s Southern Legislative Conference are staggering. In Louisiana, the state held up as the leader in the current wave of states establishing incentive packages, the estimated total output of the film industry—direct, indirect and induced outputs—has soared from $22.1 million in 2002, to $390.5 million in 2003, to $721.1 million in 2004, to $1 billion in 2005.

Another noteworthy achievement is that Louisiana currently ranks third in the number of films produced in the country behind California and New York, a ranking achieved as a result of the incentive package now in place.

In North Carolina, over a 25-year span from 1980 to 2005, the industry has created more than $7 billion in revenues for local economies across the state. Georgia is another SLC state where, in 2006, 291 films and videos were produced with a direct value of $251.1 million, with a total economic impact of $448.3 million.

Filmmaking in Maryland hit record levels in fiscal year 2006, generating a $158 million economic impact and more than doubling the prior year’s total of $66.3 million. Virginia’s governor, in June 2006, announced that the state’s film and video industry’s 1,800 projects in 2005 had a direct economic impact of $221.1 million, the highest ever reported and a 14 percent increase over the previous year.

As states continue to enact measures that attract the film industry, it remains to be seen how effective they will be in enhancing the more value-added aspects of the production process, particularly post-production activities, within their own borders. Continually enhancing these value-added processes will be critical in ensuring that states secure high-tech, high-wage jobs, which will reinforce America’s competitive advantage in this rapidly changing and global industry.

—Sujit M. CanagaRetna is senior fiscal analyst with The Council of State Governments’ Southern office, the Southern Legislative Conference. This article is based on his report “Lights! Camera! Action! Southern States Efforts to Attract Filmmakers’s Business” available at http://www.slcatlanta.org/Publications/EconDev/LightsCameraAction.pdf or e-mail scanagaretna@csg.org.
States Push for Changes to Federal Law

Congress in 2005 passed the REAL ID Act aimed at fighting terrorism and combating illegal immigration. But states say the law would be too costly to implement, and also have questions about privacy issues. Six states have rejected participation in the law.

By Mary Branham Dusenberry
Estimated state costs to implement the federal REAL ID Act of 2005 are daunting.

Recent press accounts illustrate the financial challenges that have pushed six states to reject participation in the program and at least 11 other states to take some action in opposition. For example:

- Maine would have to spend $185 million to implement REAL ID Act, according to a July article in the Charleston (W.Va) Daily Mail.
- For Washington, the cost would be around $255 million in the first six years, plus 300 additional employees, according to the Tacoma News Tribune.
- Oklahoma would spend $8 million in startup costs, plus $23 million annually for five years, The Oklahoman reported.
- California would spend at least $500 million to comply with the federal rules, according to The Contra Costa Times.

The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators estimates put the total cost to implement the act nationally is around $11 billion. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security estimates put the cost at more than $14 billion for states, and another $7.8 billion for drivers, to implement the law.

“It’s not an environment where states can pull money from other areas and spend on this,” said Sujit CanagaRetna, senior fiscal analyst for The Council of State Governments’ Southern office, the Southern Legislative Conference. “There are huge, almost insurmountable problems on the horizon for states.”

Education, health care, retirement and emergency management are only some of the budget issues with which states are grappling, he said.

“When you add this on,” CanagaRetna said of REAL ID, “it’s going to be pretty daunting.”

The costs are just one point of contention for states. They’re also concerned about privacy and security issues, and the prospect of yet another unfunded mandate from the federal government.

“I’m very concerned about the loss of freedom and invasion of privacy that would be imposed if this REAL ID Act goes in,” said Missouri Rep. Jim Guest, who spoke at several legislative conferences this summer and sent to other states model legislation to reject the act. “I would oppose this even if it was fully funded. Otherwise you’re saying you can put a price on freedom.”

So far six states—Maine, Montana, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Washington—have voted to reject the law. Other states are also balking at implementing the federal requirements. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has said final compliance regulations are expected this fall, and Secretary Michael Chertoff has said he won’t retreat from the plan to require states to change driver’s licensing procedures.

The Costs

Chertoff acknowledged at a national meeting with legislators in August that it will be a challenge for states to implement the law, especially if more federal funding is not available. He said at a press conference June 20 that “frankly the immigration bill actually authorizes a slug of money for REAL ID because the current version of the bill in the Senate actually envisions REAL ID as being an employment verification document.”

Homeland Security offered $100 million in grants this year, but according to CanagaRetna, those funds come from the anti-terrorism budget. “The specter of terrorism hasn’t gone away,” he said.

Guest scoffs at the notion the REAL ID would help combat terrorism. “If you believe terrorists have to have a driver’s license, that’s a step you can take,” he said. “But my feeling is you can be a terrorist without a driver’s license.”

The federal government, however, believes the REAL ID is a tool that can be used in that fight, as well as the growing threat of identity theft. “Whether it be terrorism or identity theft, the fact remains that increasingly we rely upon driver’s licenses as a form of identification,” Chertoff said in June.

Neil Schuster, AAMVA’s president and CEO, doesn’t dispute that.

“When we started issuing driver’s licenses, it was proof you should be able to drive,” he said. “Today I use my driver’s license to prove my driving ability once a while. But I use it as my identification card three or four times a day. It’s an identification card literally of choice for the nation.”

Officials with state DMVs recognize that, and want to provide a secure and documented card for their residents. But AAMVA’s members, Schuster said, are looking at a wide range of issues when it comes to REAL ID. Schuster said the ability of DMV offices around the country to perform their jobs is a major concern to his organization, in addition to the costs and privacy concerns. Many offices have made changes to make driver’s license renewal more customer service oriented, such as remote locations and electronic verification of documents.

“What if states had to take away from the customers those things they’ve pro-

—South Carolina Sen. Larry Martin
vided to make it more convenient?” Schuster said. “(Customers would) have fewer options and would have to go to a place that is going to have long lines.”

Schuster points to the six to eight month delay in obtaining passports as an indication of what could happen when 250 million drivers across the country try to renew licenses by the deadlines imposed by REAL ID.

State Sen. Larry Martin envisioned those long lines in South Carolina, and that, along with cost and privacy issues, prompted him to file legislation rejecting the act.

“We couldn’t come to terms with how in the world we would ever be able to verify birth certificates, particularly those issued in other states,” said Martin. “There are hundreds of thousands of people who have been long-time residents here but were born somewhere else. We would have to verify that through means that don’t presently exists. There’s no database that exists for that type of information exchange.”

Doug Robinson, executive director of the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO), said his group’s members are concerned about the technology and technology policy issues. NASCIO would like to see national standards.

“We believe for this to be successful, there needs to be some national governance body of state representatives: the CIOS to say, ‘we’re all going to agree to use this data standard, this type of exchange model, image document retention …’ so it’s harmonious across the states,” said Robinson.

The added requirements to obtain a license would substantially increase the amount of time devoted by staff and individuals.

“From a practical standpoint,” Martin said, “verifying those documents as well as proof of residence and Social Security cards on top of that would absolutely slow DMV (Department for Motor Vehicles) down to a crawl.”

Taking all that into account, he said, South Carolina rejected participation.

“The cost and sheer inability to do what the Real ID Act says you have to do, and that is verify those documents … We didn’t feel we had the ability to do anything other than to say we can’t do it, not as it is designed at this point,” he said.
Privacy Issues

The new REAL ID-compliant driver’s licenses don’t just require more information to obtain, they also could include more information than is currently on most licenses, according to Guest. He said the licenses in most states have a 1D bar code that includes information that’s basically on the front of the card. Homeland Security wants a 2D barcode which, according to Guest, “would hold the contents of a set of encyclopedias.”

“My question is, if all you want is what is on the front of a driver’s license why do you need a 2D barcode?” he said. He’s concerned because, he believes, states will be issuing “a blank check. It says they have control. It’s completely under their department or jurisdiction on what they can impose in the future.”

Guest and Martin are also concerned with the amount of information DMV employees will have about individuals getting driver’s licenses.

“Having all that information in the various DMV offices, laying on counters, people taking breaks, Social Security numbers, birth records, those types of things laying there, and being very much an ongoing part of an everyday routine … that opens you up to a loss of privacy we didn’t feel comfortable with,” said Martin.

The Department of Homeland Security, in an internal privacy impact assessment, raised concerns as well. The March report said the increases in queries of federal reference databases heightens privacy concerns about how the data checks will be performed and who will be doing them, as well as who has access to the information. It also questions how states can protect the personal information required of REAL ID in their databases, and how the personal information stored on machine readable technology be protected from unauthorized collection and use.

“The REAL ID Act implicates a number of significant privacy concerns for the American public,” the report concluded. The DHS Privacy Office recommended several privacy protections, including giving states control of queries into the federal database and state-to-state information exchange, requiring states to develop a comprehensive security plan, and using encryption to protect personal information stored on REAL ID cards.

The Future

Several groups—including the National Governors Association, National Conference of State Legislators and AAMVA—have advocated for changes, and are awaiting the final rules from DHS. For instance, they’d like to see those people who have a federally-acceptable ID card—such as members of the armed services—exempt from having to get a REAL ID. Schuster said they’d also like to see enforcement of the provisions of the act be delayed until electronic verification systems are fully in place. He said states would also like to have flexibility of innovation in developing their licensing systems.

NGA has also asked for an extension of the May 2008 compliance deadline, additional funding to implement the law, a 10-year progressive re-enrollment schedule, adoption of uniform naming conventions to facilitate electronic verification, and card security criteria based on performance instead of technology.

Most expect REAL ID won’t be implemented, at least not in its original form, and they doubt it can be enforced with the number of states bowing out.

“If those six are out, I don’t know how in the world you can do it,” said Martin. “We have state laws on the books that prevent us from sharing certain personal information with anyone beyond law enforcement. We’re not going to divulge that information.

“We can’t afford to give that information to anybody on the phone or through e-mail unless we know they are who they say they are,” he said.

While the act made participation by states voluntary, it also requires a REAL ID for anyone entering federal buildings or boarding an airplane. There are no sanctions for states, but residents of non-complying states would feel an impact.

Schuster said states are aware of the potential ramifications for residents if their home states don’t offer REAL ID-compliant driver’s licenses. Some states are looking at enhanced driver’s licenses that may be cheaper than a passport, but offers more information than a regular driver’s license, according to Schuster.

“States may offer a dual system,” he said. “If you don’t plan to travel, a driver’s license is fine. If you’re an international traveler, you’ll probably get a passport.

“States fully understand that they need to provide some solutions for their citizens and they’re willing to do it,” he said.

For now, the onus is on DHS to formulate a plan that will satisfy the concerns of states, or it’s unlikely REAL ID will come to pass.

“You don’t want to say it’s impossible,” Martin said, “but it’s probably close to being as impossible to accomplish as any law Congress has passed.”

—Mary Branham Dusenberry is the managing editor for State News magazine.
**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**CONFERECE REGISTRATION**

**Registering**
You can register for the conference by visiting the “Meetings” area of the CSG Web site (www.csg.org) and completing the online registration form. If you prefer to fax in your registration, you can download forms from the CSG Web site. Please fax registrations to (859) 244-8117. If you have any questions regarding registration, please contact CSG at (800) 800-1910 or e-mail registration@csg.org.

**Rates**
Registration rates for the Annual 2007 meeting are below. If you have questions regarding your rate, please contact CSG at (800) 800-1910 or registration@csg.org. Please note that rates increase closer to the meeting, so register as early as possible to receive the lowest rate. If you register via mail, note that your rate will be based upon the date your form is postmarked.

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**Cancellations**
All cancellations must be received in writing and a cancellation penalty may apply. Please visit www.csg.org for complete cancellation policies and fees. Notices of cancellation can be e-mailed to registration@csg.org or faxed to (859) 244-8117. Cancellations are also accepted via postal mail—National Meeting Registration, CSG, 2760 Research Park Drive, Lexington, KY 40511.

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS**

**Location**
CSG will be hosting the 2007 Annual State Trends and Leadership Forum at the Cox Convention Center located in downtown Oklahoma City. In order to accommodate meeting participants, CSG has secured room blocks at the Renaissance Hotel Oklahoma City and the Sheraton Hotel Oklahoma City for November 11–14. Both properties are located directly across the street from the convention center.

**Reservations/Room Block/Rates/Cancellations**
Space at both the Renaissance and the Sheraton is limited and will be reserved on a first come, first serve basis. Attendees will be responsible for making their own hotel accommodations by contacting the hotels directly at the numbers listed on the following page. All room cancellations or changes to arrival/departure dates must be made directly with the hotel.
Conference Hotels

The Renaissance Oklahoma City Convention Center Hotel
10 North Broadway, Oklahoma City, OK, 73102
Marriott Rewards Category: 4
Rate: $189.00+ 13.88% room tax = $215.23
Check-In: 3:00 PM—Check-Out: 12:00 PM

Experience the Renaissance of Oklahoma City, the premier luxury Oklahoma City hotel in the heart of downtown. Conveniently located near Bricktown Canal and Entertainment District, Bricktown Ballpark, OKC National Memorial, Cox Business Service Convention Center and Ford Center Arena. The only four-diamond downtown OKC hotel, it is a place of style and class, and boasts a uniquely upscale ambiance. Services include a full spa, coffee shop offering Starbucks, 24 hour room service and a world-class executive chef. Experience the Renaissance of Oklahoma City.

For Reservations Call: (800) 859-6877*
*Credit card information will be required in order to guarantee reservations.
Name of Room Block: 2007 CSG Annual Meeting
Hotel Cut off Date: Oct. 12, 2007**
**All reservations must be made prior to Oct. 12, 2007. After this date, CSG can no longer guarantee availability. Cancellation: Room cancellations must be made 48 hours prior to arrival date in order to avoid one night’s room charge plus tax.

The Sheraton Oklahoma City
10 North Broadway, Oklahoma City, OK, 73102
Starwood Preferred Guest Category: 3
Rate: $159.00+ 13.875% room tax = $181.06
Check-In: 3:00 PM—Check-Out: 12:00 PM

At the Sheraton Oklahoma City, you will be connected and comfortable. Because of this, take time to relax, enjoy and unwind in one of the 395 newly renovated Bricktown hotel guest rooms. The Sheraton in Oklahoma City provides guests with unsurpassed service and amenities not offered by any other Oklahoma City hotel. The Sheraton in Oklahoma City puts you in the heart of this exciting city and provides you with all necessary facilities for an amazing trip. Unlike most other Oklahoma City hotels, the Sheraton in Oklahoma City offers newly enhanced guest rooms and suites that feature modern conveniences and the comforts of home. Guests can enjoy the best night’s sleep in Sheraton Sweet Sleeper beds, and you’ll be within walking distance to most of the city’s major attractions!

For Reservations Call: (800) 325-3535*
*Credit card information will be required when calling in to make reservations.
Name of Room Block: 2007 CSG Annual Meeting
Hotel Cut off Date: Oct. 12, 2007**
**All reservations must be made prior to Oct. 12, 2007. After this date, CSG can no longer guarantee availability. Cancellation: Room cancellations must be made five days prior to arrival date in order to avoid one night’s room charge plus tax.

ATTIRE
The average high for November is 60° - the average low is 38°. The dress for all meetings is business casual.

THINGS TO DO
For a complete list of local attractions, visit the Oklahoma City Convention & Visitors Bureau at www.okccvb.org.
Sunday, November 11, 2007
10 a.m.–6:30 p.m. Registration
3–4 p.m. Dues Subcommittee
3–5 p.m. Technology Working Group *(members only)*
3–5 p.m. Alzheimer’s Issues Workshop
4–5 p.m. Associates Advisory Committee
4–5:30 p.m. Finance Committee
5–6 p.m. Newcomers’ Reception
6–8 p.m. Governor’s Welcome Reception *(Oklahoma History Museum)* *(Shuttle tours to the capitol will be available)*

Monday, November 12, 2007
7 a.m.–6 p.m. Registration
7–8:15 a.m. Buffet Breakfast
8:30–10:30 a.m. CSG Expo Hall Open
8:30–10:30 a.m. Health Policy Task Force: Business Meeting and Roundtable Discussions
8:30–10:30 a.m. Public Safety and Justice Task Force: Business Meeting and Roundtable Discussions
8:30–10:30 a.m. Education Policy Task Force: Business Meeting and Roundtable Discussions
8:30–10:30 a.m. Workshop: Solar Energy
10:30 a.m.– Noon Opening Plenary *(Veterans Day Recognition)*
Noon–3:30 p.m. Strategic Planning Committee
Noon–1 p.m. CSG Expo Hall Opening Luncheon
1–1:30 p.m. Dessert *(served in Expo Hall)*
1–5 p.m. CSG Expo Hall Open
2–3:30 p.m. Workshop: Centers for Disease Control
2–3:30 p.m. Energy & Environment Policy Task Force: Business Meeting and Roundtable Discussions
2–3:30 p.m. Workshop: Education Policy Topic TBD
2:30–5:30 p.m. Committee on Suggested State Legislation *(SSL)*: Part I
3:30–5:30 p.m. Annual Meeting Committee
5:30–6:30 p.m. Toll Fellows Alumni Reception *(by invitation only)*
5:30–6:30 p.m. National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators *(NHCSL)* Reception
6:30–10 p.m. Oklahoma Host State Reception *(Skirvin Hotel)*

Tuesday, November 13, 2007
7 a.m.–6 p.m. Registration
7–8:30 a.m. Buffet Breakfast
8:00–10:30 a.m. Energy & Environment Policy Topic TBD
8:30–10:30 a.m. Health Policy Task Force Policy Topic TBD
8:30–10:30 a.m. Public Safety & Justice Task Force Policy Topic TBD
10:30–11:30 a.m. Plenary II *(Speaker - TBD)*
11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Appetizers Sponsored by the Expo Hall
12:30–2 p.m. Awards Luncheon
2–4 p.m. CSG Expo Hall Open
2–4 p.m. Workshop: Health Information Technology
2–4 p.m. Workshop: Energy Topic TBD
2–5 p.m. Committee on Suggested State Legislation *(SSL)*: Part II
2–4:30 a.m. Intergovernmental Affairs Committee
3:30–5:30 p.m. Midwestern Legislative Conference *(MLC)* Executive Committee Meeting
5:30–6:30 p.m. Eastern Regional Conference *(ERC)* Reception
5:30–6:30 p.m. Midwestern Legislative Conference *(MLC)* Reception
Honoring Kim Koppelman, North Dakota 2008 National CSG Chair
5:30–6:30 p.m. CSG- WEST Reception
5:30–6:30 p.m. Southern Legislative Conference *(SLC)* Reception
9 p.m.–Midnight 2008 Omaha Reception

Wednesday, November 14, 2007
7 a.m.–3 p.m. Registration
7–8:30 a.m. Buffet Breakfast
9–11:30 a.m. International Committee
9–11:30 a.m. Workshop: Topic TBD *(Sponsored by Financial Services Working Group)*
9–11:30 a.m. Workshop: Topic TBD *(Interbranch Working Group)*
9–11:30 a.m. 21st Century Foundation *(members only)*
Noon–1:30 p.m. Closing Plenary & Luncheon *(Speaker - TBD)*
2–4:30 p.m. Governing Board/Executive Committee
2:30–5:30 p.m. Field Studies and Technical Tours
6:30–9:30 p.m. Oklahoma Host State Closing Dinner *(National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum)*
Hotel reservations may be made online at www.csg.org. Invoicing for meeting registrations will begin on the date of registration. All cancellations must be received in writing and a cancellation penalty may apply. For complete information regarding programming, accommodations, registration cancellations, or special assistance needs, please visit www.csg.org or call (800) 800-1910.

Please print. Duplicate this form for multiple registrations.

Name ___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Title (as it is to appear on your badge) __________________________________________________________________________________

Organization _____________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Address _________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

City __________________________ State _________________________ Zip _____________________

Office Phone (_____) __________________________ Fax (_____) __________________________

Home Phone (_____) __________________________ E-mail ________________________________

Guest/Spouse (if attending) _____________________________________________________________________________________________

☐ Please check if this is the first time you have attended a CSG Spring or Annual meeting.

Attendee Categories and Fees
(Please check the appropriate box. Payment must accompany registration.)

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☐ Bill to State Agency

Spouse/Guest Payment Information
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Email: zain@iconstituent.com
Southern Governors Discuss Obesity, Insurance, Economics, Energy

The Southern Governors’ Association held its 73rd annual meeting Aug. 25–27 in Biloxi’s Beau Rivage Resort.

By Charlotte Cole and Jon Schweitzer
Nine of the 10 fattest states in the U.S. are in the South, where more than 25 million people have diabetes, according to recent reports.

The Southern Governors’ Association focused on the South’s battle with obesity and diabetes in a plenary session during its 73rd annual meeting.

Governors and medical experts from throughout the South came together to discuss the burgeoning health care crisis that has increased medical costs to states and contributed to decreased productivity among the region’s residents.

“There is no greater issue driving the U.S. economy than the obesity crisis,” said former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, a candidate for the Republican presidential nomination. Huckabee shared his personal battles with obesity and diabetes with Southern governors.

Dr. William Rowley, a senior futurist at the Institute for Alternative Futures, predicts by 2015 half of Mississippi’s adult population will be obese.

“I don’t know that fried has anything to do with it. But we weren’t raised eating right in the South,” said Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour, SGA chairman. “But the good news is we can do something about it.”

Other speakers at the health session included:

- John Miall, a special consultant to the American Pharmacists Association Foundation, who spoke about the need for education and personal oversight for employees with chronic health problems.
- William Poole, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, discussed the importance of human capital and the service industry helps compensate for weaknesses in manufacturing job losses in recent decades.

Richard W. Fisher, president and chief executive officer of Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, provided in-depth remarks reflecting “The Southern States in a Globalized Economy.” Fisher reminded the governors that the 16 Southern states produce a combined output 76 percent greater than China’s.

“The South is an economic juggernaut,” said Fisher.

Governors and the speakers also discussed the importance of human capital to the continued growth and prosperity of the Southern region, as well as strategies to cultivate a productive work force through education—particularly vocational and technical opportunities, as well as progressive training initiatives.

Regional Economic Trends

Three Federal Reserve Bank presidents discussed regional economic growth and work force pressures in a globalized economy.

Dennis P. Lockhart, president and chief executive officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, discussed the importance of education and retraining to make workers resilient to competitive pressures in a global economy. He described the Sixth Federal Reserve District as an economic microcosm of the nation overall, noting the emergence of automotive manufacturing and the service industry helps compensate for weaknesses in manufacturing job losses in recent decades.

Richard W. Fisher, president and chief executive officer of Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, provided in-depth remarks reflecting “The Southern States in a Globalized Economy.” Fisher reminded the governors that the 16 Southern states produce a combined output 76 percent greater than China’s.

“The South is an economic juggernaut,” said Fisher.

William Poole, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, discussed protecting exports, in particular, the need for a deeper understanding of the critical importance of foreign economic growth for U.S. exports, and of the relationship between U.S. imports and U.S. exports.

Governors and the speakers also discussed the importance of human capital to the continued growth and prosperity of the Southern region, as well as strategies to cultivate a productive work force through education—particularly vocational and technical opportunities, as well as progressive training initiatives.

Stabilizing Insurance Markets

SGA’s member governors and a panel of leading insurance industry executives discussed strategies that can be employed to stabilize residential and commercial insurance markets in both pre- and post-event scenarios.

Brian W. MacLean, executive vice president and chief operating officer, Travelers, presented his company’s proposal to
establish a Coastal Hurricane Zone from Texas to Maine as a way of stabilizing availability and affordability of insurance products in higher risk coastal markets. Key aspects of the proposal include:

- A private market program to provide insurance coverage for similar risk exposures; and
- Federal oversight of rating and coverage to ensure a stable and uniform environment.

William R. Berkley, chairman and CEO, W.R. Berkley Corporation, discussed insurance market stability from a commercial insurer’s perspective. He suggested a new strategy toward commercial insurance coverage is needed, including:

- Revised building and zoning codes; guaranteed insurance availability up to specified limit;
- Insurance with actuarially sound rates and open rating;
- A Wind Pool with actuarially sound rates;
- Self-funded reinsurance facility funded through a refundable tax on excess profits; and
- State or federal reinsurance pool above $100 million.

Alex Soto, president, Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America, said the companies that have remained in the coastal states are often bashed and beaten up by public officials and the media.

“With thousands of different companies, it is actively competitive in most parts of the country,” said Soto. “But, that’s not the case along the coast, and we need to find ways to restore competition and bring more companies back for our insurance customers.”

Paula Rosput Reynolds, president and CEO of Safeco Corporation, discussed insurance market stability from the perspective of a property and casualty insurer, and noted that to satisfy rating agency criteria, carriers cannot expose more than 10 percent to 15 percent of surplus on catastrophic losses.

Several governors weighed in on the current lack of affordable insurance, including Alabama’s Riley.

“No one wants to set rates. I don’t want to set rates for Alabama,” he said. “On the other hand, when an insurance company has the ability to come in and red-line a district and say nothing will be written in that area, we have no choice.”

Louisiana’s Blanco raised the possibility of federal action.

“We would like the private industry sector to be the insurer that offers affordable policies. We are all searching for the right answers, and we are looking for the federal government to be our partner in these efforts,” she said.

Following the discussion, Barbour briefed the media on Mississippi two years after Hurricane Katrina, and released a detailed report on recovery activities. The report includes accomplishments and assessments in housing, public infrastructure, economic development, education, human services, environmental restoration and marine resources.

**Energy Work Force**

Barbour, Perdue and Kaine hosted a roundtable discussion featuring a panel of energy and work force experts, including Clay Sell, deputy secretary, U.S. Department of Energy; David M. Ratcliffe, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Southern Company; John Hofmeister, president and U.S. Country Chair, Shell Oil Company; Andy Dupuis, executive vice president, The Shaw Group, Inc.; Roland M. Toups, chairman and CEO, Turner Industries, LLC; and Emily Stover DeRocco, assistant secretary, U.S. Department of Labor. Bill Loveless, chief editor of *Platts Inside Energy*, served as moderator for the discussion which focused on industry trends, forecasted consumer demand, overall economic growth and job growth.

The meeting adjourned with Barbour passing the chairman’s gavel to West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin III, who will preside over SGA through August 2008. Manchin will host SGA’s 74th Annual Meeting at The Greenbrier Resort in White Sulphur Springs, W.Va., from Aug. 9–11, 2008.

—Charlotte Cole is director of communications and Jon Schweitzer is communications coordinator for the Southern Governors’ Association.
Members of the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) expanded their work on health issues and economic development in September.

Four lieutenant governors are home after a weeklong September mission to Taiwan. Lt. Gons. Anthony Brown of Maryland, Barbara Lawton of Wisconsin, Rick Sheehy of Nebraska and Michael Cruz of Guam met with high-ranking Taiwanese officials and viewed high-speed rail and broadband deployment, among other things.

NLGA also expanded its award-winning public health education campaign, “Ending Cervical Cancer in our Lifetime,” in September. Lieutenant governors in 17 states and two territories are now engaged in the campaign. The lieutenant governors of Arkansas, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands launched events in recognition of Gynecological Cancer Awareness Month in September.

Lieutenant governors in 10 states and two territories also held several asthma awareness events in September highlighting children’s return to school. “Helping Americans Breathe Easier” aims to distribute educational materials directly to individuals to assist in identification of asthma and to promote compliance with medical treatment regimens. The lieutenant governors of Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Virginia, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands are involved in the program.

Thirty-one lieutenant governors are pictured above from the NLGA 2007 Annual Meeting in Williamsburg, Va.

Legislators Convene River Forum in Boise

State legislators from Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana convened Aug. 20–21 in Boise, Idaho, for The Council of State Governments–WEST’s (CSG-WEST) Legislative Council on River Governance (LCRG). LCRG is a cooperative association that provides a forum for lawmakers from the four states along the Columbia River Basin to discuss common environmental and commercial interests in the river and its tributaries.

The Boise meeting provided participating legislators an opportunity to hear from experts and engage in substantive discussions on issues affecting the management of the Columbia river Basin. These issues included drought and climate change, the Endangered Species Act, Montana tribal water rights settlement, implementation of the Columbia River Water Management Plan, economics of water transfers and a federal legislative update, among others.

For their part, participating legislators unanimously agreed to encourage legislative monitoring of the negotiated agreement between Idaho and Washington on the Spokane Aquifer Study. An update on this plan to assess groundwater use in the Spokane River area will be given to the group during the next LCRG meeting tentatively scheduled April 14–15, 2008, in Oregon.
Legislators Tour New Orleans Recovery Efforts

Thirty-nine state legislators from across the country got the chance to see first-hand recovery efforts in New Orleans during the Healthy States Forum for State Legislators: Innovation and Collaboration in Wellness Aug. 23–25.

Legislators were led on a guided tour of the Lower Ninth Ward, the area hardest hit by the devastating Hurricane Katrina in 2005, by Maj. Gen. Hunt Downer and Lt. Col. Mickey Doll of the Louisiana National Guard. Two tour buses wound their way through sections of the city many families once called home, but now are left vacant and overgrown. In some areas, only slab foundations and steps leading up to nowhere mark where houses once stood.

The highlight of the tour included a stop at the newly reopened Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Charter School for Science and Technology, the first school to reopen in the Lower Ninth Ward. Legislators also toured a local day care and made a stop at Downer’s former 150-year-old residence at Fort Jackson, which was flooded in the days following Katrina and still is uninhabitable.

While it is hoped no area of the U.S. will again face the type of devastation wreaked by Katrina, legislators found conference sessions about infrastructure, environmental issues and emergency response useful nonetheless. They also got the chance to hear experts on a variety of adolescent and adult public health issues, such as the mental health impact of bullying, the HPV vaccine, violence prevention/elder abuse and promoting adult wellness in rural areas. Two directors from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—Dr. Howell Wechsler of the Division of Adolescent and School Health and Dr. Wayne Giles, Division of Adult and Community Health—made presentations to the group.

To view the presentations of these speakers, other experts and legislators who presented, visit: http://www.healthylstates.csg.org/Events+and+Conferences/Healthy+States+Forum.htm.

Legislators gave the conference high praise in their evaluations at the end of the meeting. “Holding this conference in New Orleans was an excellent choice,” one wrote. “This conference was fabulous.” Another commented, “You continue to provide ‘first class’ training opportunities and attract expert presenters.”

Conference Focuses on Early Education

The Council of State Governments/Eastern Regional Conference convened an annual conference Sept. 6–7 that brought together legislators, policymakers and educators at the University of Massachusetts in Boston. Speakers and participants focused on high-quality early education and care, a developmental necessity for our children and one of the most highly productive economic strategies available. The conference, extremely well received, was rated a 3.8 out of a possible 4.0 by participants.

Presenters included:

- Commissioner Ann Reale, Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care
- Delaware Gov. Ruth Ann Minner
- Dr. Jack Shonkoff, director, Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University
- Dr. W. Steven Barnett, director, National Institute for Early Education Research, Rutgers University
- Dr. Arthur Rolnick, senior vice president and director of research, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis,
- Dr. Sara Watson, senior policy officer, Pew Charitable Trust
- U.S. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts provided closing keynote remarks via video from his Washington D.C. office due to Senate sessions.

The conference concluded with a leadership roundtable of legislative and policy leaders, as well as strategy sessions on which policy initiatives attendees wanted to bring home and what steps they would take to enact them. A final report of the event will be produced.

Shonkoff found the basic principles of neuroscience and human capital formation indicate later remediation will produce less favorable outcomes than preventive intervention.

Only high quality programming yields returns on investments in early care and education. Responsible investments focus on effective programs that are well implemented and improved continuously.

Watson cited a report from The Milwaukee Sentinel that “through investments in high-quality voluntary preschool for at-risk children, by 2050 Wisconsin could reap benefits of $13.60 for every dollar it puts into early learning.”

For more information, contact Doe West, Ph.D., at doewest@aol.com.
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 for updates and more extensive listings.

### October 2007

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 18-20</td>
<td>XVI Border Legislative Conference—Santa Fe, NM. Contact Edgar Ruiz</td>
<td>Santa Fe, NM.</td>
<td>(916) 553-4423 or <a href="mailto:eruiz@csg.org">eruiz@csg.org</a>.</td>
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### November 2007

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 5-8</td>
<td>CSG/CSG-WEST—Western Legislative Academy—Colorado Springs, Colo.</td>
<td>Colorado Springs, Colo.</td>
<td>Contact Mary Lou Cooper at (916) 553-4423 or <a href="mailto:csgw@csg.org">csgw@csg.org</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 6-7</td>
<td>Midwest Legislative Conference/Midwestern Education to Workforce Policy Initiative Summit—Des Moines, IA.</td>
<td>Des Moines, IA.</td>
<td>Embassy Suites on the River. Contact Laura A. Tomaka at (630) 925-1922 or <a href="mailto:ltomaka@csg.org">ltomaka@csg.org</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 11-14</td>
<td>CSG Annual State Trends and Leadership Forum—Oklahoma City, OK.</td>
<td>Oklahoma City, OK.</td>
<td>Contact Chris Whatley, Director of International Programs, at <a href="mailto:cwhatley@csg.org">cwhatley@csg.org</a> (202) 624-5460.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 12-14</td>
<td>CSG/State International Development Organizations—Annual Meeting—Oklahoma City, OK. Contact Chris Whatley, Director of International Programs.</td>
<td>Oklahoma City, OK.</td>
<td>(202) 624-5460.</td>
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### December 2007

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<tr>
<td>Dec. 2-5</td>
<td>CSG/National Association of State Treasurers—NAST Treasury Management Conference—San Antonio, TX.</td>
<td>San Antonio, TX.</td>
<td>Hyatt Regency Hill Country. Contact Adhee Hamilton at (859) 244-8174 or <a href="mailto:ahamilton@csg.org">ahamilton@csg.org</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 7-9</td>
<td>Eastern Regional Conference Executive Committee Meeting—Washington, DC.</td>
<td>Washington, DC.</td>
<td>Doubletree Hotel.</td>
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### January 2008

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### February 2008

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### March 2008

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 10-14</td>
<td>CSG/National Emergency Management Association—NEMA Mid-Year Conference—Washington, DC.</td>
<td>Washington, DC.</td>
<td>JW Marriott. Contact Karen Cobuluis at (859) 244-8143 or <a href="mailto:kcobuluis@csg.org">kcobuluis@csg.org</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 12-14</td>
<td>CSG/National Lieutenant Governors Association—State Federal Meeting—Washington, DC.</td>
<td>Washington, DC.</td>
<td>For more information, visit <a href="http://www.nlgua.us">www.nlgua.us</a>.</td>
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### April 2008

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 8-10</td>
<td>CSG/State International Development Organizations—SIDO White House Forum—Washington, DC.</td>
<td>Washington, DC.</td>
<td>Contact Chris Whatley, Director of International Programs, at <a href="mailto:cwhatley@csg.org">cwhatley@csg.org</a> (202) 624-5460.</td>
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### July 2008

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 12-16</td>
<td>National Association of State Personnel Executives, Annual Meeting—Oklahoma City, OK.</td>
<td>Oklahoma City, OK.</td>
<td>Skirvin Hilton. Convention Center. Contact Lisa Collins at (859) 244-8179 or <a href="mailto:lcollins@csg.org">lcollins@csg.org</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 13-16</td>
<td>CSG/Midwestern Legislative Conference—63rd Annual Meeting—Rapid City, S.D.</td>
<td>Rapid City, S.D.</td>
<td>Contact Cindy Andrews at (630) 925-1922 or <a href="mailto:candrews@csg.org">candrews@csg.org</a>, or visit <a href="http://www.csgmidwest.org">www.csgmidwest.org</a> for more information.</td>
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### August 2008

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<tr>
<td>Aug. 3-6</td>
<td>CSG/American Probation and Parole Association—33rd Annual Training Institute—Las Vegas, NV.</td>
<td>Las Vegas, NV.</td>
<td>Rio All-Suite Hotel. Contact Kris at (859) 244-8204 or visit <a href="http://www.appa-net.org">www.appa-net.org</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 8-12</td>
<td>CSG/Midwestern Legislative Conference—144th Annual Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development (BILLD)—Madison, WI.</td>
<td>Madison, WI.</td>
<td>Pluno Center of Executive Education. Contact Laura Tomaka at (630) 925-1922 or <a href="mailto:ltomaka@csg.org">ltomaka@csg.org</a>, or visit <a href="http://www.csgmidwest.org">http://www.csgmidwest.org</a> for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 16-20</td>
<td>CSG/Southern Legislative Conference—Oklahoma City, OK. Contact Elizabeth Lewis at the Southern Legislative Conference at (404) 633-1866 or visit <a href="http://www.slcatlanta.org">www.slcatlanta.org</a> for additional information.</td>
<td>Oklahoma City, OK.</td>
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### September 2008

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 8-11</td>
<td>CSG/National Emergency Management Association—NEMA Annual Conference—Portland, OR.</td>
<td>Portland, OR.</td>
<td>Contact Karen Cobuluis at (859) 244-8143 or <a href="mailto:kcobuluis@csg.org">kcobuluis@csg.org</a>.</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 4-7</td>
<td>CSG Annual State Trends and Leadership Forum—Omaha, NE.</td>
<td>Omaha, NE.</td>
<td>Contact Registration at 1-800-800-1910 or <a href="mailto:registration@csg.org">registration@csg.org</a>.</td>
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### August 2009

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 15-19</td>
<td>CSG/Southern Legislative Conference—Annual Meeting—Winston-Salem, NC.</td>
<td>Winston-Salem, NC.</td>
<td>Contact Elizabeth Lewis at the Southern Legislative Conference at (404) 633-1866 or visit <a href="http://www.slcatlanta.org">www.slcatlanta.org</a> for additional information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 9-12</td>
<td>CSG/Midwestern Legislative Conference—64th Annual Meeting—Overland Park, KS.</td>
<td>Overland Park, KS.</td>
<td>Contact Cindy Andrews at (630) 925-1922 or <a href="mailto:candrews@csg.org">candrews@csg.org</a>, or visit <a href="http://www.csgmidwest.org">www.csgmidwest.org</a> for more information.</td>
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### Spring and Fall 2008

- CSG/State International Development Organizations—SIDO China Market Research Mission. Contact Chris Whatley, Director of International Programs, at cwhatley@csg.org or (202) 624-5460.

Other meetings have value to state officials. Purchase a meeting listing by calling (800) 800-1910 or by e-mailing sales@csg.org. Announce your meetings to thousands in the state government market through an advertisement or a Web listing.
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—October 1967**

**Appropriations for Travel Safety**

The U.S. House of Representatives increased spending appropriations for safety on state highways from $20 million to $40 million, according to an article in the October 1967 State Government News. That was just 40 percent of the money requested by the highway department.

Also, the Senate Appropriations Committee added $50 million in funding for air traffic control. Those funds were intended to help expenditures with personnel and the study of potential changes in air safety regulations.

A long-term goal for President Lyndon Johnson at the time was the development of a comprehensive air traffic control plan including “fair” user charges. Estimated costs of the proposed plan reached nearly $5 billion.

**25 years ago—October 1982**

**The Lottery Grows**

Among the State Headlines in the October 1982 State Government News was an item about the new lottery in the District of Columbia, which joined 15 states already running them. The state of Washington also started its lottery later in the year, and Colorado followed suit in 1983.

Also, the attorney general agreed to allow New Jersey Lottery Commissioner Hazel Gluck to test instant lottery video machines in liquor stores and taverns. That idea was considered too much like slot machines earlier by the New York attorney general.

**Update**

According to the North American Association of State and Provincial Lotteries, 43 of the 50 states now have lotteries in place. Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Hawaii, Mississippi, Utah and Wyoming are the seven states currently without a lottery. Among the more recent additions to the NASPL are Tennessee and North Dakota, which both joined in 2004, and Oklahoma in 2005. The latest addition is North Carolina, which set up the North Carolina Education Lottery in 2006. All the net proceeds are allocated to education expenses such as class size reduction, school construction and college scholarships.

**10 years ago—October 1997**

**Congress Returns Federal Benefits to Legal Immigrants**

States were forced to pick up most of the aid to legal immigrants after President Bill Clinton signed a welfare reform bill into law, according to a report in the October 1997 State Government News.

When Clinton signed the bipartisan Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act in August 1996, the federal funding bill returned a portion of the benefits that “qualified” legal immigrants lost. While legal immigrants didn’t receive all the reimbursements they collected prior to the bill’s passage, they got assistance from Supplemental Security Income and Medicaid.

**Update**

The United States accepts more legal immigrants as permanent residents than the rest of the world combined, making immigration is one of the hottest topics of the 2008 presidential election.

Opinions about immigrants entering the United States have changed in the aftermath of the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. The number of Americans who want tighter restrictions and control on immigration has increased by 20 percent since the attacks, according to a Gallup poll.

An NBC/Wall Street Journal poll recently found Americans have a brighter viewpoint about legal immigration than they do about illegal immigration. Provisions in government services or legal protections to illegal immigrants have become a major source of debate for United States citizens.
What do you need to know?

Who was the first woman to serve as a governor in the United States?

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