CSG West is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that fosters the exchange of insights and ideas among western state legislators and legislative staff, advocates multi-state partnerships, cultivates leadership, and promotes a regional vision based on common interests that transcend state and international borders. As one of the four regions of The Council of State Governments, a national community of states, CSG West engages members on a more intimate, regional level while also providing a national platform for the exchange of ideas and information.

WHO WE ARE

In support of our members, CSG West convenes a variety of programs and events designed to facilitate collaborative learning aimed at addressing regional concerns. This includes policy committees, policy academies, professional development training programs, and international relations opportunities designed to strengthen legislative institutions. Information about our 2020 committees, programs, services, and events is included in this booklet.

WHAT WE DO

CSG West is governed by four Officers and the Executive Committee, which is comprised of western legislative leaders. The Officers, who provide direct oversight of the organization, are elected annually and rotate in accordance with the organization’s rules to ensure bipartisan governance. Acting as a governing board, the CSG West Executive Committee meets annually to review the work of policy committees, adopt policy positions, and review the ongoing development of the organization, as well as select participants for the Western Legislative Academy.

HOW WE ARE GOVERNED

By fostering a nonpartisan environment for legislators to convene, CSG West allows the opportunity for innovative solutions to evolve and improve state governments for the citizens they serve.”

Rep. Kimberly Dudik, Montana, 2019 CSG West Chair
Join us in Jackson for discussions on a range of regional topics. All CSG West policy committees, working groups, and leadership convene during the Annual Meeting. Additional learning opportunities are offered through forum sessions hosting in-depth conversation and information sharing on select topics of regional relevance.

Discounts available for early registration through June 28, 2020

csgwest.org/annualmeeting
JOIN THE CONVERSATION ON...

- Legislative efforts on bail reform
- Challenges and opportunities of rural broadband
- Collaborative management of the Colorado River
- Blockchain technology

SAVE THE DATE FOR 2021
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO
JULY 19 - 22
CSG West policy committees provide a structured forum for the exchange of ideas and collaborative learning on key regional topics. Through the coordination of the Chair and Vice Chair, each committee convenes during the CSG West Annual Meeting during which members and topic experts participate in conversation to address select policy issues and identify collaborative resolutions.

### Agriculture

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<tr>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Rep. Lynn DeCoite</th>
<th>Hawaii</th>
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<td>Vice Chair</td>
<td>Sen. Lee Heider</td>
<td>Idaho</td>
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### Education

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<tr>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Rep. David Northrup</th>
<th>Wyoming</th>
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<td>Vice Chair</td>
<td>Sen. Mo Denis</td>
<td>Nevada</td>
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### Canada Relations

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<tr>
<th>Co-Chair</th>
<th>Sen. Michelle Stennett</th>
<th>Idaho</th>
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<td>Co-Chair</td>
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### Energy

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<tr>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Rep. Geraldine Custer</th>
<th>Montana</th>
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<td>Vice Chair</td>
<td>Rep. Chris Hansen</td>
<td>Colorado</td>
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### Economic Development

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<tr>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Rep. Bradley Last</th>
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<td>Vice Chair</td>
<td>Sen. Ben Allen</td>
<td>California</td>
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### Health

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<tr>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Rep. Eric Barlow</th>
<th>Wyoming</th>
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<tr>
<td>Vice Chair</td>
<td>Rep. Deborah Armstrong</td>
<td>New Mexico</td>
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Frank, open, and forward-looking exchange on legislation with relevance for both sides...

2019 Annual Meeting attendee
Launched in 2002, the Border Legislative Conference (BLC) is the premier facilitator of ongoing dialogue among the U.S. – Mexico border region. State legislators and key stakeholders convene with topic experts and discuss unique, regional policy concerns such as migration, trade, ports of entry, water, and more.

Membership is comprised of state legislators from the U.S. states of California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas, and the Mexico states of Baja California, Sonora, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, and Tamaulipas. Members are appointed by their respective state leadership each biennium.

The XXXIII BLC will convene in California during the fall of 2020. California Assemblymember Jose Medina, BLC Chair, will welcome members and other legislators to the conference.

**CSG West Staff Contact:** Addy Jimenez

“The relationship between the United States and Mexico is a long and special one, and one that deserves particular attention.”

**Congressman Henry Cuellar,** Texas
(Former member of the Texas House of Representative and co-chair of CSG West’s Southern Border Committee, predecessor to the BLC)
The Legislative Council on River Governance (LCRG) engages legislators from Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington in dialogue focused on issues facing the Columbia and Snake River Basins. Members share relevant legislative actions in their respective states enabling them to learn from one another and identify areas of potential collaborations. Resource experts from a range of agency, academia, and other community organizations are invited to join the conversation allowing members to learn from the most current information on the health and wellbeing of the basin, as well as the communities dependent on it for food, water, recreation, and power. Recent meetings have addressed topics such as aquatic invasive species, fisheries, the Columbia River Treaty negotiations, energy, and water quality.

**CSG West Staff Contact:** Jackie Tinetti

"I urge those who can participate in CSG to take advantage of the opportunity. The LCRG is a great example of legislators from multiple states working to find a collaborative, bipartisan solution on preserving state authority and enhancing river governance in the Columbia and Snake River Basins. It has been a fantastic experience and the cooperation among legislative leaders is beneficial to the entire Pacific Northwest."

**Washington Rep. Bruce Chandler, LCRG Chair 2018-19**
Western Legislative Academy

The Western Legislative Academy (WLA) brings together western state legislators for an intensive multi-day training designed to sharpen leadership skills on communications, consensus building, time management, ethics, and more. Sessions are interactive and hosted by national leaders and academic authorities. Additionally, class members learn from each other allowing the opportunity to develop lasting relationships with legislative peers.

Participation in the WLA is limited to legislators in their first four-years of cumulative service. Those interested in being considered must submit an application outlining the following criteria:

1. Dedication to public service and the legislative institution
2. Interest in improving the legislative process
3. Desire to improve personal effectiveness as a legislator

Selected members will be invited to join the 2020 WLA class in Colorado Springs from December 9–12. Applications will be available on the CSG West website through April 17. For questions about the program or application process, please contact CSG West staff.

**CSG West Staff Contact:** Erica Miller

“...you’re doing fun things. Your’re laughing and enjoying, and all of a sudden, you realize that you’re talking about key issues... but you’re not dividing. You’re doing so in a collaborative manner.”

*Sen. Nancy Todd, Colorado, WLA 2006*
Through this unique program, CSG West works with states to offer training to both legislators and legislative staff in a local setting. Select trainers and academic instructors offer interactive sessions designed to help participants sharpen their professional skills. A wide range of topics are available, including media relations, stress management, public speaking, meeting management, ethics, and negotiations.

**CSG West Staff Contact:** Erica Miller

"Wow! The information was valuable—both professionally and personally. The delivery, personality and amazing knowledge of the presenter was exceptional."

**California training attendee**

"It was such an exceptional and worthwhile training."

**Oregon training attendee**

Hosted at the CSG National headquarters in Lexington, Kentucky, the Toll Fellowship program brings 48 of the nation’s top officials from all three branches of state government for an intensive leadership boot camp. The program’s sessions are designed to stimulate personal assessment and growth, while also providing relationship-building opportunities.

**CSG Staff Contact:** Kelley Arnold
The Legislative Service Agency & Research Directors (LSA/RD) committee offers nonpartisan legislative staff directors a forum where they can learn and share best practices within state legislative institutions. The committee is comprised of nonpartisan western legislative service agencies directors in the legal, research, and administrative departments and meets annually.

The annual training seminar focuses on developing management skills, as well as sharing state innovations within nonpartisan offices. Through collaborative learning, members support their respective efforts to deliver superior customer service to their legislatures.

*CSG Staff Contact: Jennifer Schanze*
JUSTICE CENTER

The CSG Justice Center works with state officials in all three branches of government to develop research driven strategies designed to increase public safety and strengthen communities. Through the use of in-depth data analyses and extensive engagement with officials within the criminal justice system, the Justice Center is able to foster collaborative policy efforts to address state specific challenges.

For more information visit: csgjusticecenter.org

NATIONAL CENTER FOR INTERSTATE COMPACTS

Combining policy research with best practices, the CSG National Center for Interstate Compacts promotes the use of interstate compacts to meet the demand for cooperative state action. Acting as an information clearinghouse, as well as providing training and technical assistance, the Center works with states to review, revise, and create new interstate compacts designed to address multistate problems and provide alternatives to federal preemption.

For more information visit: csg.org/ncic

CENTER OF INNOVATION

Launched in July of 2018, the CSG Center of Innovation is a national initiative designed to provide a practical resource for state officials in all three branches of government. By providing state leaders with hands on opportunities to learn and develop solutions to pressing state issues, the Center also assists in the development of healthy intergovernmental relationships. Some of the current initiatives include occupational licensure, the overseas voting initiative, retaining employment and talent after injury/illness, elections cybersecurity, and the state exchange on employment and disability.

For more information visit: csg.org/coi
REGIONAL ROUNDUP

Offering information on events, resources and topics important to the western region, the Regional Roundup newsletter delivers semi-monthly updates in an easy to read, electronic format.

www.csgwest.org/publications/newsletters.aspx

CAPITOL IDEAS

Produced by CSG National, the Capitol Ideas magazine provides information and insights relevant to state governing. Offering organization updates, regional perspectives and in-depth analysis of key policy issues, the magazine is a great way to stay updated on a variety of topics affecting states.

www.csg.org/publications.aspx

THE BOOK OF THE STATES

Providing easy-to-read summaries, tables and charts, The Book of the States is an invaluable reference tool for legislators and legislative staff. Initially published in 1935, CSG produces an annual collection of information illustrating how state governments operate. The 2019 edition offers information collected from more than 500 sources.

www.csg.org/publications.aspx
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