It is not what we have that will make us a great nation; it is the way in which we use it.

- Theodore Roosevelt, July 4, 1886
A Message from CSG-WEST Officers

In the fall of 1947, political leaders from the western states met in San Francisco for the purpose of establishing the Western Office of The Council of State Governments. Around the table there was an acknowledged need for the West to follow the lead of the South, the Northeast and the Midwest to form a regional association of state political leaders to provide a platform and a voice for the unique needs of the western states in post-war America. The minutes of the meeting from that first year provide a vivid example of how ideas and best practices are shared among states as Senator Vincent Thomas from California reported on the success of the San Francisco Trade Zone and emphasized that trade zones would be of value to the entire West, not only in San Francisco, but in Los Angeles, Portland and Seattle.

This spirit of cooperation and collaboration among states who share borders as well as a common culture provides the best reason why CSG-WEST has been the longest continuously serving organization for political leaders in the West. The Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming provided a spectacular place to celebrate the 60th anniversary of CSG-WEST, and as you review the activities that took place there and throughout 2007 as reported in this Year in Review, you will see the opportunities provided for western state legislators to listen and learn from each other.

We look forward to continuing that tradition of service and appreciate your support as colleagues and friends.

Sincerely,

Senator Lesil McGuire, Alaska
CSG-WEST Chair

Representative Jose Campos, New Mexico
CSG-WEST Chair-Elect

Senator Tom O’Halleran, Arizona
CSG-WEST Vice Chair

Representative Jeff Morris, Washington
Speaker Pro Tempore
CSG-WEST Immediate Past Chair
CSG-WEST 2007 Executive Committee

The Executive Committee serves as the board of directors for CSG-WEST, reviewing the work and activities of policy committees, adopting policy positions and annually selecting participants for the Western Legislative Academy.

The committee is comprised of CSG-WEST officers and program leaders, western legislators serving in CSG national leadership positions, the presiding legislative officers and ranking minority leaders of each member state and legislators appointed by the presiding legislative officers of member states.

The Executive Committee of CSG-WEST works with staff and officers of the Western Governors’ Association, Western Municipal Conference and Western Interstate Region of the National Association of Counties to build consistent and creative advocacy of the West’s interests by political leaders at the state and local level.

Program Participants

Alberta Minister-Counsellor Murray Smith (top left); Rob Merrifield (top right), Member of Parliament and Co-chair of the Canada-U.S. Interparliamentary Group from Ottawa; and Joan McIntyre, Member of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, shared perspectives on western provincial/state opportunities for cooperation.

Pam Inmann, Executive Director of Western Governors Association in Denver, Colorado, talked about issues that western governors and state legislators could work on together.

Luis E. Ramirez Thomas (top), Chair of the Travel and Immigration Committee of the Border Trade Alliance in Phoenix, Arizona, and Canadian Consul General Marc LePage (right) of San Francisco, California, shared perspectives on North American collaboration.

California Senator Mike Machado (top) and Bill Vickrey (right), Administrative Director of the California Courts Judicial Council of California, talked about western state legislative-judicial relationships.

Jay Jensen, Director of the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition, talked about the effect of the western bark beetle.
CSG-WEST 2007 Executive Committee

Meetings-at-a-Glance

May 26 - San Francisco, California
• Selection of Western Legislative Academy Class of 2007
• Western Legislative Conference Policy Agenda Setting Sessions
• North America Competitiveness
• State Legislative / Judicial Branch Relations
• Western Bark Beetle Assessment
• School Trust Lands: The Utah Experience

September 19 - Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming
• Opportunities to Collaborate with Western Governors’ Association
• CSG-WEST Programs and Projects Reports
• North American Cooperation
• Shooting Star Presentation
• Nominating Committee Report

Member Participation

Senate Majority Leader
Gary Stevens (AK)

Rep. Marcus Oshiro (HI)

Rep. Jackie Dingfelder (OR)


Speaker Pro Tempore
Cheri Jahn (CO)

House Minority Leader
Tom Taylor (NM)

Rep. Janice Arnold-Jones (NM)

Rep. Mel Brown (UT)

Rep. Ronda Rudd Menlove (UT)

Senate President
Ben Alamirano (NM)

Sen. Carlen Walker (UT)

Sen. Kate Brown (OR), Rep. Jeff Morris (WA)
CSG-WEST 2007 Executive Committee

Member Participation

Rep. Dell Raybould (ID)
Rep. Maxine Bell (ID)

Rep. Rich Wills (ID)

Rep. Jim Keane (MI)

Sen. Grant Larson (WY)

Sen. Paula Sandoval (CO)

Rep. John Coghill (AK)

Sen. Lesil McGuire, Alaska

House Minority Leader Marty Martin (WY)

Sen. Mary Jane Garcia (NM)

Rep. Thomas Garcia (NM)
Rep. Dave Quall (WA)

Sen. Carolyn Allen (AZ)

Sen. John Schiffer (WY)
### CSG-WEST 2007 Executive Committee

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Alaska</strong></td>
<td>Lyda Green</td>
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<td>Lesil McGuire, AK</td>
<td>CSG-WEST Chair</td>
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<td><strong>Arizona</strong></td>
<td>Timothy S. Bee</td>
<td>President of Senate</td>
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<td>Marsha Arzberger</td>
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<td>Carolyn S. Allen</td>
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<td>Phil Lopes</td>
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<td><strong>California</strong></td>
<td>Don Perata</td>
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<td>Dick C. Ackerman</td>
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<td>Pedro Nava</td>
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<td><strong>Colorado</strong></td>
<td>Joan Fitz-Gerald</td>
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<td>Thomas A. Garcia, Representative</td>
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<td><strong>Ex-Officio Members</strong></td>
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<td>Dave Henderson</td>
<td>Oregon Legislative Administrator</td>
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<td>Pamela Varni</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
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<td>Alaska Legislative Affairs Agency</td>
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CSG-WEST “Serving Western Legislatures”
Summary of CSG-West Programs and Projects

Programs

- The Western Legislative Conference brings together legislators from western states to learn from each other and collaborate on issues of regional concern such as water, public lands, energy and transportation.

- The Western Legislative Academy is an intensive professional development program designed to help newer western state legislators become more effective leaders and build stronger legislative institutions.

- WESTRENDS is a regional leadership board comprised of one legislator from each western state that addresses demographic, economic and cultural trends shaping the West.

- The Legislative Service Agency and Research Directors Committee provides nonpartisan western staff leaders management training and opportunities to share best practices with each other.

Projects

- Pursuing cooperative solutions to issues that arise along the 2000-mile U.S.-Mexican border is the focus of the Border Legislative Conference, which is composed of state legislators from California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and the six Mexican border states of Baja California, Sonora, Chihuahua, Nuevo Leon, Coahuila and Tamaulipas.

- The U.S.–Mexico State Alliance Partnership is a binational, multi-branch program of cooperation, in coordination with the Conference of Western Attorneys General and the National Association of State Treasurers, that serves as a platform for the ongoing implementation of the Border Legislative Conference and exchanges among state attorneys general and treasurers of the U.S. and Mexico.

- CSG-West acts as a convener for the Legislative Council on River Governance, a cooperative association of legislators from Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana on environment and energy issues in the Columbia River Basin.
The Legislative Service Agency/Research Directors (LSA/RD) Committee is made up of the nonpartisan legislative staff directors of the West. This core CSG-WEST program is dedicated to finding ways to deliver the best possible customer service to lawmakers in a positive and professional workplace environment. Western staff leaders convene each year for professional development training.

Oregon Legislative Administrator Dave Henderson and Alaska Legislative Affairs Agency Executive Director Pam Varni, respectively LSA/RD committee chair and chair-elect, facilitated the 2007 committee forum in San Francisco, California. LSA/RD members from Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming participated in the fall training seminar.

Members shared information on what happened in 2007 sessions, legislative ethics, impacts of new technology and human resource issues, including how to manage Generation Y in the workplace and planning for the next generation of leaders. In addition, a senior FranklinCovey trainer taught “The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People” to help legislative staff directors become more effective in their work lives.
Lawmakers from the West’s 13 state legislatures assembled in policy forums at the CSG-WEST annual meeting to learn from one another and share ideas about strategies and solutions.

Overview of 2007 Policy Committees

Education Committee

The committee focused on an update of federal legislation, the “No Child Left Behind” act, and how changes could impact states in the western region. How to attain adequacy and equity when it comes to education finance in public schools was also an important discussion item. Members held a roundtable exchange on successful programs in their respective states.

Energy and Environment Committee

This forum addressed three different policy aspects of energy and how they intersect: 1) cap and trade, carbon tax, and CO2 sequestration 2) conservation and efficiency and 3) the environment.
Western Legislative Conference

Fiscal Affairs Committee

With growing prison populations putting considerable pressure on state budgets, the Fiscal Affairs committee explored justice reinvestment strategies to reduce corrections spending. They also looked at what states should be doing in the ‘good times’ to prepare for the next crisis or economic downturn.

CHAIR
Paula E. Sandoval
Senator
Colorado

VICE CHAIR
Carolyn S. Allen
Senator
Arizona

Transportation and Trade Committee

This forum considered innovative ways to relieve highway congestion, the status of western ports and how they impact western trade, and how one state, Oregon, has implemented a model program to raise highway revenues.

CHAIR
Pedro Nava
Assembly Member
California

VICE CHAIR
Jim Keane
Representative
Montana

Water and Public Lands Committee

The committee reviewed impacts of climate change and demographic shifts on western water supplies, sustainable management, and the integration of water and land use planning. The committee also was briefed on school trust land issues and pending federal water and public lands legislation.

CHAIR
Dell Raybould
Representative
Idaho

VICE CHAIR
Kelvin D. Atkinson
Assembly Member
Nevada

Western Legislatures Committee

The Western Legislatures Committee held a forum on political engagement that featured the study “A New Engagement? Political participation, Civic Life and the Changing American Citizen.” The Education Commission of the States offered practical insights on how to bring young people into the political process. Lawmakers looked at western innovations to engage citizens in state legislatures, such as Washington State’s nationally known TVW broadcasts, Hawaii’s Public Access Room and Politicopia, Utah’s invitation to citizens to participate in the legislative process via the Internet.
The issues of population migration, water, and energy usage all influence climate change. As members of the WESTRENDS Board, it is incumbent upon all of us to educate our constituents about the interdependence of these issues.

- Senator Mike Machado, California, WESTRENDS Board Chair

WESTRENDS provides a forum for legislators to examine the consequences of demographic, economic and cultural trends shaping the West. The WESTRENDS Board at their session in Wyoming heard and discussed presentations on climate change and the consequences of a warming West, such as the drought, floods and fire that ravaged the region in 2007. The Board is comprised of one legislator from each of the western states and convenes one of its sessions in conjunction with the CSG-WEST annual meeting.

WESTRENDS Board 2007-2008

Senator Michael Machado, Chair, California
  Representative Peggy Wilson, Alaska
  Senator Tom O’Halleran, Arizona
  Senator Gail Schwartz, Colorado
  Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Hawaii
  Representative Maxine Bell, Idaho
  Assembly Member John Oceguera
  Assembly Majority Floor Leader, Nevada

Senator Kim Gillan, Vice Chair, Montana
  Representative Ben Lujan
  Speaker of the House, New Mexico
  Senator Vicki Walker, Oregon
  Representative Ralph Becker
  House Minority Leader, Utah
  Senator Derek Kilmer, Washington
  Representative Thomas Lockhart, Wyoming
WESTRENDS

Forum Participants

Rep. Jeff Morris (WA)

Rep. Ronda Rudd Menlove (UT)

Rep. Maxine Bell (ID)

Sen. John Lee (NV)

Sen. Leil McGuire (AK)

Sen. Gail Schwartz (CO)

Sen. Tom O’Halleran (AZ)

Rep. Jackie Dingfelder (OR)

Rep. Thomas Lockhart (WY)

Rep. Marcus Oshiro (HI)
The Western Legislative Academy (WLA) is the premier training program for newer state legislators in the West. Each year a class of 39 is selected to spend three and a half days in intensive training classes in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The Academy has two goals:
1. Helping lawmakers in their first four years of service become effective, and
2. Building support for stronger legislative institutions.

WLA is a scholarship program, and admission is competitive. Its impressive faculty includes leading academic authorities on state legislatures, U.S. Air Force trainers, experienced legislative leaders and national experts in communications, leadership, time management, ethics and negotiations.

WLA is highly ranked by those who participate and by the bipartisan western legislative leaders who support the Academy. Since its inception in 2000, the WLA has graduated 300 alumni from Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. Approximately 70 percent of the WLA alumni now serving in western state legislatures are in chamber, caucus and committee leadership positions.

Two alumni now serve in the U.S. House of Representatives, and two serve in the U.S. Senate. WLA alumni have gone on to state-wide elected offices and cabinet positions.

The El Pomar Foundation leads a growing number of public and private sector contributors in providing the financial and in-kind support that is important to the success of the Western Legislative Academy.
First Row (left to right): David Bobzien (Asmbr NV), Lynda Moss (Sen MT), Sherry Appleton (Rep WA), Tony Mendoza (Asmbr CA), Mele Carroll (Rep HI), Lisa Shepperson (Rep WY), Bill Nooney (Rep MT), John T.L. Grubesic (Sen NM), Kathy Davison (Rep WY), Jimmie Hall (Rep NM), Claire Levy (Rep CO)

Second Row (left to right): Lori Millin (Rep WY), Arnie Roblan (Rep OR), Paul Neuenschwander (Rep UT), Bill Killen (Rep ID), Ron Maurer (Rep OR), Ken Peterson (Rep MT), Joyce Broadsword (Sen ID), Adam Driggs (Rep AZ)

Third Row (left to right): Russ Fulcher (Sen ID), Jonathon Paton (Rep AZ), Jennifer Seelig (Rep UT), Paula Aboud (Sen AZ), Mark Neuman (Rep AK), Jill Tokuda (Sen HI)

Fourth Row (left to right): Larry Seaquist (Rep WA), Clarence Nishihara (Sen HI), Sylvia Andersen (Rep UT), Thomas Garcia (Rep NM), Marv Hagedorn (Rep ID), Jean Cowan (Rep OR)

Fifth Row (left to right): Pat Sullivan (Rep WA), Tom McGillvray (Rep MT), Ellen Roberts (Rep CO), James Settelmeyer (Asmbr NV), Ray Peterson (Sen WY), Anthony Adams (Asmbr CA), Jeff Morris (Rep WA)–CSG-WEST Chair
U.S.-Mexico State Alliance Partnership

Created in the winter of 2006, the U.S.–Mexico State Alliance Partnership is a jointly funded program between CSG and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), in cooperation with the Conference of Western Attorneys General (CWAG) and the National Association of State Treasurers (NAST). The Partnership goal is to strengthen and promote cooperation among state legislative and executive branch institutions in the U.S. and Mexico.

The Alliance builds upon the success of the Border Legislative Conference (BLC) as well as CSG’s international programs and multi-branch, multi-regional structure. The Partnership promotes the expanded role of states in the ongoing support of the BLC and the establishment of exchanges among attorneys general and state treasurers of Mexico and the U.S.

Border Legislative Conference

Comprising the legislative component of the U.S.–Mexico State Alliance Partnership, the Border Legislative Conference (BLC) is a binational mechanism for cooperation among state legislators of the U.S.–Mexico border region. The goal of the BLC is to empower border state legislators to engage in the binational agenda and provide input into the development of policy between both countries.

In 2007, the BLC provided an opportunity for participating lawmakers to focus on critical topics such as immigration, drug abuse, border crossings and infrastructure, climate variability and impacts on water resources, human trafficking, agriculture, and economic development.

Stretching nearly 2,000-miles, the U.S.–Mexico border region is a major economic engine for both countries. The two countries share not only a common border, but also commercial, historic and cultural ties.

Membership in the BLC is comprised of legislators from California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas in the U.S., and Baja California, Sonora, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, and Tamaulipas in Mexico. For more information, please visit www.borderlegislators.org.
Border Legislative Conference

XV BLC in Chihuahua (left to right) 2007 BLC Chair Diputado Juan José González Espinoza (Chihuahua), Chihuahua Governor José Reyes Baeza Terrazas, and 2007 BLC Vice Chair Senator Eliot Shapleigh (Texas)

CHAIR
Juan José González Espinoza
Diputado
Chihuahua

VICE CHAIR
Eliot Shapleigh
Senator
Texas

BLC Health Report
2007 BLC Health Committee Co-chairs (left to right) Diputada Leticia Amparano Gámez (Sonora) and Senator Mary Jane Garcia (New Mexico) at the Santa Fe XVI BLC Forum

BLC Members in attendance at the XVI BLC in Santa Fe, New Mexico (House chambers)

2007 Border Legislative Conference (BLC) Meetings

XV BLC Forum: March 29-30
Chihuahua, Chihuahua

XVI BLC Forum: October 18-19
Santa Fe, New Mexico

BLC Sponsors and Partners
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Attorneys General Exchanges

In partnership with (CWAG), two exchanges between U.S. and Mexico State Attorneys General were organized in 2007. The first exchange convened during the CWAG Annual Meeting in Anaheim, California in July where state attorneys generals of the Mexican states of Chihuahua, Morelos, Zacatecas, and Coahuila, along with representatives of Mexico’s Federal Attorney General’s office, participated in a general session on U.S.–Mexico issues as well as in specific breakout session focused on selection and recruitment, criminal investigation techniques, presentation of evidence in organized crime cases, and human trafficking.

The second meeting convened September 21-22, 2007 during Mexico’s 19th Annual Conference of Attorneys General in Jiutepec, Morelos, Mexico. The exchange provided an opportunity for U.S. and Mexico state attorneys general to openly discuss topics of mutual interest such as human trafficking, smuggling of firearms, efforts to reduce methamphetamines, Internet crimes against children and money laundering. Participants shared perspectives on the need to work cooperatively with joint extradition efforts to capture wanted fugitives and the need to exchange information on best practices in the area of criminal investigations.

Arizona Attorney General, Terry Goddard, Chair of CWAG, will host the next forum in the spring of 2008 to follow-up and provide specific focus on the topics discussed.

State Attorneys General and Assistant Attorneys General of the western states of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Nevada, Idaho, North Dakota, Hawaii, and California participated in the 19th National Conference of Attorneys General of Mexico in Morelos, Mexico. State attorneys general from all 31 Mexican states, the Federal District, and Mexico’s Attorney General, Eduardo Medina Mora, attended the meeting.
Legislative Council on River Governance (LCRG) is a cooperative association of legislators from Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington who meet to discuss common interests and challenges along the Columbia River basin.

In 2007, LCRG members discussed drought and climate change impacts on water supplies and power production, the Northwest Power and Conservation Council’s Fish and Wildlife Program, and Montana Tribal Water Rights Settlement issues. Participating legislators also were updated on the implementation of Washington’s Columbia River Water Management Plan and the Bonneville Power Administration’s Residential Exchange Program. Lawmakers heard perspectives on pending litigation related to an Endangered Species Biological Opinion, and they discussed potential impacts of pending federal legislation, including the 2007 Clean Water Restoration Act.
They (the Americans) meet together in large numbers, they converse, they listen to one another, and they are mutually stimulated to all sorts of undertakings.

- Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy in America, 1840

A Wyoming Welcomed
Mary Gibson Scott, Superintendent of the Grand Teton National Park, welcomed everyone to Wyoming.

American Politics
Veteran political observer and Washington Post columnist David Broder gave lawmakers the inside scoop on where the presidential hopefuls stand on the role of the states.

Worldwide Energy Supply
General Charles F. “Chuck” Wald (Ret.), former Deputy Commander at U.S. Headquarters European Command, provided an overview of the worldwide situation for securing energy.

Questions and Answers

Host State Appreciation
Washington Rep. Jeff Morris (left), CSG-WEST Chair, presented Wyoming Legislature Host Committee Chair, Sen. Grant Larson, with a host state appreciation award for Wyoming's excellent work to ensure the success of the 60th anniversary meeting.
CSG-WEST 2007 Annual Meeting

September 16-19 in Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming

The Future of Energy
A group of high powered panelists from both in and out of government looked at where U.S. energy is headed. Pictured:
The Honorable Dave Freudenthal (above right photo), Governor of Wyoming, and (starting bottom left to right) Jeff Wojahn – EnCana, New Mexico Rep. Jose Campos – Session Emcee, Darrel Thorson – BP America, Vic Abate – General Electric, Wyoming Public Service Commissioner Mary Byrnes – Session Moderator, and Vice Admiral John J. Grossenbacher (Ret.) - Idaho National Laboratory Director

Health Care
National and state solutions were presented and discussed with (left to right) Sonya Schwartz - Program Manager of the National Academy of State Health Policy in Washington, D.C., Helen Flaherty Luce - former chief of staff for author of 2006 Massachusetts health care reform law, and Dr. Henry E. Simmons – President of the National Coalition on Health Care in Washington, D.C.

Distinguished Legislative Leadership Award
Founder of the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER), former Washington Sen. Alan Bluechel (left), received the CSG-WEST Bettye Fahrenkamp Award for Distinguished Legislative Leadership from Washington Rep. Jeff Morris (right), CSG-WEST Chair.

Western Legislative Academy (WLA) Alumni
Former Wyoming Sen. John Barrasso, now U.S. Senator, told colleagues that the CSG-WEST Western Legislative Academy was the most significant training experience that prepared him for higher office.

Women in Politics
CSG-WEST 2007 Annual Meeting
September 16-19 in Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming

Shooting Star Presentation
Beth Loudy of the State Government Affairs Council (SGAC) presented Washington Rep. Jeff Morris with an award in recognition of his leadership role as 2007 CSG-WEST Chair. SGAC is a national association of state government affairs representatives.

What Women Really Want from Politics
Veteran political pollsters and co-authors of “What Women Really Want,” Celinda Lake (above) and Kellyanne Conway (right) shared what state legislators should know about gender and party differences in the electorate.

Western State Innovations
New Mexico Rep. Brian K Moore (center) chaired meeting to select winners of CSG Western Innovation programs. Winners were – Arizona Health-e Connection (represented by Executive Director Brad Tritle) and Washington Government Management Accountability and Performance (GMAP) (represented by Director Larisa Benson).

Higher Education
David Longanecker (left), executive director of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, and North Dakota Sen. Dave Nething (below) talked about higher education statistics and research in the West.

Canadian delegation hosted early bird reception (left to right) Washington Rep. Jeff Morris - CSG-WEST Chair; Canadian Consulate General Marc Boucher – Denver; Canadian Senator Dennis Dawson; Wyoming Sen. Grant Larson – Wyoming Host Committee Chair and David Kettles - Alberta International & Intergovernmental Relations Director
In response to a growing demand for continuing education, CSG-WEST held its 2nd Annual Legislative Training Assembly (ALTA) at the annual meeting in Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming. ALTA is a one-day professional development session that builds ‘process’ skills for members at all stages of their legislative careers.

everyday ethics for legislators

Tim Delaney, President of Center for Leadership, Ethics and Public Service, gave lawmakers practical tools to make better ethical decisions.

Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.

~ John F. Kennedy, 1962

cool tools for collaboration

Veteran labor negotiator and trainer Rhonda Hilyer helped lawmakers determine their collaboration styles.

Taking communications to the next level

Colorado Rep. Jim Riesberg (left) role played with trainer Jeff Ansell, communication specialist.

Colorado Speaker Pro Tempore Cheri Jahn participated in communications training.

Idaho lawmakers, Representatives Nicole LeFavour and John Rusche, worked on a collaborations exercise.
CSG: A Regionally Based National Organization of States

As citizens of this democracy, you are the rulers and the ruled, the lawgivers and the law-abiding, the beginning and the end.

~ Adlai Stevenson, 1956

Since 1933, The Council of State Governments (CSG) has served our nation’s state leaders by providing a forum for “sharing good ideas across state borders.” As the only organization serving all three branches of state government, CSG at the national level offers a unique look into the issues shaping state policy and legislation.

CSG has four very diverse regions with distinct geographical, demographic and cultural characteristics. Each region elects its own officers who also serve on the CSG national Executive Committee and Governing Board. Each region has its own staff who work with a variety of policy committees, research projects, initiatives and meetings. In the West, CSG-WEST services western state legislatures exclusively.

With offices in Lexington, Kentucky, CSG national provides policy analysis and tracks national trends in state government. The Award-winning “The Book of the States” and “State News” magazine are published by the national office.

The CSG Washington D.C. office provides a voice for state leaders to Congress, monitors federal activities (including U.S. Supreme Court decisions) and evaluates their impact on states.

Regions of The Council of State Governments
Western Participation in CSG National

2007 CSG National Leaders
Left to right: CSG Vice Chair-Elect - Senate President David L. Williams, Kentucky; CSG Chair-Elect - Rep. Kim Koppelman, North Dakota; CSG President - Governor Brad Henry, Oklahoma; CSG Chair - Rep. Deborah Hudson, Delaware; CSG Executive Director Dan Sprague; and CSG Vice Chair – Sen. Bart Davis, Idaho Senate Majority Leader

Rep. Maxine Bell, Idaho
Vice Chair of CSG Financial Services Working Group

Sen. Gary Stevens
Alaska Senate Majority Leader
Co-Chair of CSG Energy and Environmental Committee

Rep. Steve Urquhart, Utah
Co-Vice Chair of CSG Intergovernmental Affairs Committee

Sen. Paula Sandoval, Colorado
Member of CSG Governing Board
Western Participation in CSG National

Rep. Blake Oshiro, Hawaii
Co-Chair of CSG Public Safety and Justice Task Force

Assembly Member Hector De La Torre, California
Co-Chair of CSG International Committee

2007 Western Toll Fellows
CSG’s national Toll Fellowship program offers leadership and policy training sessions to emerging state leaders.
(front row, left to right) Rep. Rosie Berger (WY), Chief of Staff to Hawaii Senate President, Rod Tanonaka, Secretary of State Mary Herrera (NM)
(back row, left to right) Dept of Corrections Director Robert Lampert (WY), Sen. John McGee (ID), Rep. Carl Gatto (AK), Sen. Linda Evans Parlette (WA), Sen. Sheldon Killpack (UT), Chief Legal Counsel for Montana Secretary of State, Janice Doggett
Not pictured: American Samoa Speaker Savali Tulavo Ale
A Special Thank You to the 2007

Your support enhanced our capabilities to provide substantive forums, training sessions and networking opportunities for western state legislators at the CSG-WEST spring meeting, 60th annual meeting and 8th Western Legislative Academy.
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Thank you for your participation and investment in helping us strengthen state legislatures in the West!

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- Xcel Energy

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Save the Date!

CSG-WEST 61st Annual Meeting

Leadership For Today and Tomorrow

Anchorage, Alaska July 16–20, 2008

Preliminary Schedule:

Wednesday, July 16
• All Day 26-Glacier Tour
• Canadian Delegation Reception at Alyeska

Thursday, July 17
• OPENING SESSION
• Annual Legislative Training Assembly (ALTA) Program Day
• North American Summit
• Western Legislative Academy Alumni (WLAA) and CSG Tolls Reception
• Evening Event with Entertainment and Native Crafts
• Hospitality Suite

Friday, July 18
• All Day Programming: Plenary Sessions and Policy Forums
• Women in Politics Session
• Open Evening for Socializing and Fishing Tournament
• Hospitality Suite

Saturday, July 19
• All Day Programming: Plenary Sessions and Policy Forums
• DINNER/DANCE Event

Sunday, July 20
• Morning: CSG-WEST Executive Committee Meeting

More information about the meeting is available at www.csgwest.org