Convened in Colorado Springs this December, the 18th Western Legislative Academy (WLA) hosted thirty-seven promising western legislators. Participants were selected by their state’s leadership to participate in a three and a half day program of extensive skill-building provided by national experts. The course agenda included training in the process of good governance, integrity and ethics, time management, consensus building, and leadership styles.

The sessions provided opportunities for participants to learn from both trainers and one another. Pam Vaccaro helped to kick off the Academy by sharing insights on how to become a truly focused leader by managing more than just time. Scott Raecker lead a discussion on how to build a culture of excellence and ethics using a variety of interactive exercises to illustrate the importance of integrity and relationships.

Opening the second day of the Academy, Phil Boyle reviewed the problems, choices and decisions involved in governing for the public good. During an afternoon at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Daniel Miller lead class members through a variety of engagement activities designed to develop their leadership and team building abilities.

On the final day of the program, Dave Landis lead a spirited discussion on consensus building and negotiations. Using several simulated exercises, participants were able to test and hone their skills. With the assistance of class volunteers, Bill Graham offered tools to increase likeability and promote better communication. Concluding the Academy sessions, participants were introduced to time-tested lessons in leadership from none other than President Thomas Jefferson.

The WLA is a program of the Council of State Governments West (CSG West). Since the inaugural Academy in 2000, 680 Western legislators have graduated from the program, with many alumni serving in leadership capacities including presiding officers, majority and minority leaders, committee chairs and vice chairs, and caucus leaders within their state legislatures.

The 2018 WLA will take place November 28th - December 1st in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Admission is competitive and limited to legislators in their first four years of cumulative service. Applications are available and due to CSG West by April 23rd. For more information, visit www.csgwest.org or call 916.553.4423.

**Class of 2017**

- **Alaska**
  - Representative DeLena Johnson
  - Representative Gary Knopp
  - Representative Chuck Kopp

- **Arizona**
  - Unable to Participate

- **California**
  - Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
  - Assemblymember Jim Cooper

- **Colorado**
  - Representative Chris Hansen
  - Representative Kimmie Lewis
  - Representative Barbara McLachlan

- **Guam**
  - Senator Régine Biscoe Lee

- **Hawaii**
  - Representative Matthew LoPresti

- **Idaho**
  - Senator Lori Den Hartog
  - Representative Sage Dixon
  - Representative Caroline Nilsson Troy
  - Representative Melissa Wintrow

- **Montana**
  - Representative Janet Ellis
  - Representative Wendy McKamey
  - Senator Jason Small

- **Nevada**
  - Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno
  - Senator Julia Ratti
  - Assemblywoman Jill Tolles

- **New Mexico**
  - Representative Deborah Armstrong
  - Senator Bill Tallman
  - Representative Elizabeth Thomson

- **Oregon**
  - Representative Ken Helm
  - Senator James Manning Jr.
  - Representative Rich Vial

- **Utah**
  - Representative Carl Albrecht
  - Representative Bruce Cutler
  - Senator Lincoln Fillmore
  - Senator Daniel Hemmert

- **Washington**
  - Representative Tom Dent
  - Representative Mia Gregerson
  - Senator Rebecca Saldaña
  - Senator Lisa Wellman

- **Wyoming**
  - Senator Lisa Anselmi-Dalton
  - Senator Brian Boner
  - Representative Jamie Flitner
Born and raised in Tucson, Arizona, Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno moved to Nevada in 1994 to join the North Las Vegas Police Department where she completed a career total of twenty-seven years in law enforcement. Her passion for community service was fostered by her parents at an early age by engaging in activities from registering voters to assisting in a city council campaign for a high school teacher. Her community engagement continued through her adolescence and into adulthood eventually landing her the role of second vice chair for the Clark County Democratic Party. The opportunities provided by this role combined with her drive to serve prompted her to run for – and win - her current position representing Assembly District 1 in the Nevada State Legislature.

Perhaps the only part of the Assemblywoman’s life more important than public service is her family. A mother to three daughters and grandmother to three grandchildren, her passion for her family and love of community provided the necessary motivation to run for office. To ensure that her efforts have a long-lasting impact on her community, she works with local organizations to promote civic engagement with both adolescents and young adult constituents mentoring the next generation of civil service members. Additionally, she regularly hosts topic specific conversations where experts and advisors in their field join her to discuss and answer questions from constituents promoting a well-informed community.

Past Presidents of the Western Legislative Academy

- Wyoming Representative Tyler Lindholm (2016)
- Alaska Representative Geran Tarr (2015)
- Idaho Representative Kelley Packer (2014)
- Wyoming Senator Ogden Driskill (2012)
- Nevada Assemblywoman Teresa Benitez-Thompson (2011)
- New Mexico Senator John Sapien (2009)
- New Mexico Representative Thomas Garcia (2007)
- Nevada Assemblywoman Heidi Gansert (2005)
- New Mexico Representative Jose Campos (2004)
- Alaska Senator Lesil McGuire (2001)
- Nevada Senator Barbara Cegavske (2000)