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Utah State Sen. Stuart Adams CSG West 2018 Chair



“States function better when we work as laboratories of innovation. As we experience different problems and try to solve those, sharing experiences with other states helps improve policies nationwide.”

Utah state Sen. Stuart Adams will focus his time as the 2018 CSG West Chair creating opportunities for state leaders to share insights and ideas.

“My hope is that as 2018 CSG West chair I can help legislators be more effective by giving them the ability to share ideas with each other through regional and national CSG meetings,” Adams said. “States function better when we work as laboratories of innovation. As we experience different problems and try to solve those, sharing experiences with other states helps improve policies nationwide.”

Adams has served nine years in the Utah state Senate and is currently the majority whip. He also serves as the chairman of the Military Installation Development Authority. He previously served more than four years in the Utah House of Representatives and as chairman of the Utah Transportation Commission.

According to Adams, Medicaid, infrastructure spending and tax reform will be important policy issues for states in his region in the coming year, but education policy will be at the top of the list.

“The number one issue that any legislator can deal with is education. It’s essential,” Adams said. “I believe education for states is as significant as national defense is for the federal government. If you have an educated workforce and a vibrant education system, a lot of these problems we have can be solved. People are our biggest asset, and the biggest asset to people is education.”

In order to work together on these policy issues and more, Adams said it is important for state leaders who are already involved with CSG to invite their colleagues to get involved, especially within their regions.

“CSG’s regional structure is a strength of the organization,” Adams said. “This structure allows leaders to get to know their colleagues and share successes. Sharing ideas helps you be more effective and helps you become better a leader.”

The CSG West Annual Meeting will be held in Adam’s home state of Utah on Sept. 11–15, 2018.

“I’m excited to have the convention here in Utah,” Adams said. “It will be a great opportunity to make new connections and share innovative ideas.”

2018 EVENTS



Border Legislative Conference

Spring 2018 | TBD

Contact: mcastaneda@csg.org
borderlegislators.org

Border Legislative Academy

July 12–15, 2018 | San Diego, California

Contact: mcastaneda@csg.org

Legislative Council on River Governance

Aug. 20–21, 2018 | Butte, Montana

Contact: jmiller@csg.org
csgwest.org/programs/LEGISLATIVECOUNCILONRIVERGOVERNANCE.aspx



71st CSG West Annual Meeting Sept. 11–15, 2018 | Snowbird, Utah

The CSG West Annual Meeting provides legislators, legislative staff and private sector stakeholders unparalleled opportunities to share their experiences and learn from regional/national experts and insightful leaders. All CSG West policy committees, task forces and leadership convene during the Annual Meeting. This provides substantive engagement in both regionally and nationally relevant topics such as energy, public lands, education, fiscal affairs, health, economic development, trade, water, regional trends, the environment and more.

Legislative Service Agency & Research Directors Training Seminar

Sept. 25–27, 2018 | Colorado Springs, Colorado

Contact: jschanze@csg.org
csgwest.org/legislativeacademy/WesternLegislativeServiceAgency.aspx

EVENTS CONTINUED



Western Legislative Academy
Nov. 28–Dec. 1, 2018

Colorado Springs, Colorado

Convened in Colorado Springs, the Western Legislative Academy, or WLA, is a three-and-a-half-day program of extensive skill building provided by national experts. The classroom work is hosted at the Historic Penrose House with the assistance of the El Pomar Foundation. Participants receive training in the history of legislative institutions, the art of public decision making, ethics, time management, consensus building, communications, and leadership styles. Each session provides great opportunities to learn from both trainers and each other.

In 2018, the WLA will host its 19th class. Participants in the program must be in their first four years of service and are selected for participation based on their dedication to public service, commitment to the institution of the legislature, and their desire to improve both their own effectiveness, as well as the legislative process as a whole.

Contact: emiller@csg.org
csgwest.org/legislativeacademy/WesternLegislativeAcademy.aspx

PUBLICATIONS & RESOURCES



Biweekly e-newsletter
Regional Roundup

CSG West publishes a biweekly email newsletter called *Regional Roundup*, which provides updates on CSG West activities and events, and stories on issues important to Western legislators and others who care about the West. To sign up for *Regional Roundup*, visit CSGWest.org. Follow CSG West on Twitter @CSGWest!

INITIATIVES



Furthering State-Federal Cooperation

CSG West is part of a coalition of regional, multi-branch and bipartisan associations working to promote a stronger state-federal relationship. This includes the implementation of shared principles of federalism and seeking meaningful state consultation.

Strengthening North American Engagement

The Western U.S. has the unique distinction of sharing international borders with both Canada and Mexico. As such, CSG West capitalizes on such geographic opportunities to promote binational and continental cooperation and foster understanding through several programs. This includes the Border Legislative Conference and the Border Legislative Academy which promote cooperation and provide professional development to legislators of the U.S.-Mexico border region, and the Canada Relations Committee that focuses on shared concerns among western U.S. states and Canadian provinces.

The Legislative Council on River Governance

The Legislative Council on River Governance, or LCRG, convenes lawmakers from the Columbia River Basin states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington to address issues of mutual concern and to share best practices.

Westrain

The Westrain program provides in-state training for legislators and staff on a variety of professional development topics. These include communications, time management, negotiations, consensus-building, conflict resolution and ethics. Capacity trainings are tailored to meet the specific needs of state legislatures.

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