We are pleased to share the CSG West 2013 annual report that highlights our programs and activities during the past year aimed at strengthening Western state legislators and legislative institutions.

The report provides an overview of our key forums and efforts, including the annual meeting, policy committees, legislative training opportunities, international exchanges and research resources available. It also identifies some of the key leaders and stakeholders that contributed to the ongoing success of CSG West.

CSG West is committed to serving Western states by providing a forum and program opportunities for leaders to share insights, broaden their perspectives and learn from each other. We look forward to continue advancing the mission of the organization and to empower Western lawmakers to achieve excellence in their respective legislative institutions.

Sincerely,
Craig, Nancy, Kelvin and Jeff
CSG West 2014 Officers
The Council of State Governments (CSG) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that fosters regional and national cooperation and promotes best practices among state leaders across the United States, as well as with our international partners in Canada and Mexico.

CSG West facilitates regional cooperation and the strengthening of Western state legislative institutions. CSG West advocates multistate partnerships and solutions, the exchange of capitol ideas, building leadership and promoting a regional vision that transcends state and international borders.

The membership of CSG West consists of the Western state legislatures of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. Associate members from the Canadian provinces of Alberta and British Columbia as well as the Pacific islands of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam are also valued participants in CSG West.

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The Executive Committee serves as the board of directors of CSG West reviewing the work and activities of policy committees, adopting policy positions, selecting participants for the Western Legislative Academy and approving the annual selection of CSG West officers.

The Committee is comprised of:
- Four CSG West officers
- Presiding legislative officers of both chambers of each Western state
- Ranking minority leaders of both chambers of each Western state
- Chair and vice chair of CSG West committees
- Legislators appointed by the presiding legislative officers of member states
- Western legislators serving as CSG national officers or leaders of CSG national committees and task forces
- Western legislators who are former CSG or CSG West chairs

**Actions-at-a-Glance**

July 30 and August 2, 2013
Las Vegas, Nevada

Selected the Western Legislative Academy Class of 2013
Adopted policy resolutions on
- Combating Aquatic Invasive Species
- Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling
- Reauthorization of the State Trade and Export Promotion (STEP) Grant Program
- Supporting Increased North American Cooperation and Coordination

Adopted resolutions in memory of Arch Lustberg and Alan Rosenthal respectively

Agricultural Water Conservation & Rural Broadband

The inaugural meeting of the Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee focused on several issues important to rural America: agricultural water conservation, rural broadband, the farm bill, Nevada’s efforts to grow agriculture, and a brief recap of the State Ag and Rural Leaders (SARL) meeting.

Dr. David Zoldoske from the Center for Irrigation Technology at Cal State University Fresno spoke on the progress made with agricultural water conservation in the central valley of California and presented results of a study on the lifecycle of water in the central valley. The study found that there is very little additional water to be saved through conservation based on current technology when looking at the full lifecycle of water and that improvements in irrigation often translated to reduced groundwater replenishment.

Frank Ohrtman from Colorado shared what can be done to provide high-speed internet to residents in rural areas. His plan for developing community broadband is defined by 5A’s: Aggregate Experience, Assess Your Broadband Environment, Assess and Aggregate Demand, Adopt Existing Resources and Solutions, and Adapt for Sustainability. Ohrtman advocates a technology neutral approach to developing community broadband systems because each community is different and has different challenges and needs when it comes to deployment.

A series of short updates closed the forum, including Doug Busselman with the Nevada Farm Bureau with an update on farm bill, and Lynn Hettrick, Deputy Director of the Nevada Department of Agriculture, providing steps taken to expand agriculture in Nevada.

Session presentations are available at www.csgwest.org/presentations.aspx
Binational Cooperation
July 29, 2013 CSG West Annual Meeting
Las Vegas, Nevada

The inaugural meeting of the Canada Relations Committee welcomed appointed members from Western state and provincial legislatures, as well as members from the Canada-US Inter-Parliamentary Group.

Consul General of Canada in Los Angeles, **David Fransen**, provided an overview of “The United States & Canada: Friends, Neighbors & Partners in Growth.” He highlighted the amount of 2012 bilateral trade, $710 billion in goods and services. The number of U.S. jobs supported by this trade is 8 million, of which 1.9 million are in the West. Canada is the #1 export market for five Western states - Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Wyoming.

**Caron Wilson**, the Border Implementation Team Policy Advisor for the Privy Council Office (PCO) of Canada, discussed Beyond the Border, a binational federal program. The PCO is the hub of non-partisan, public service support to the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Beyond the Border is a joint declaration by Canada and the United States announced on February 4, 2011 that articulates a shared approach to security in which both countries work together to address threats within and away from their borders, while expediting lawful trade and travel.

**Cal Dallas**, Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations for the Government of Alberta, shared information on trade and market access. He noted that one of the major challenges, as it relates to oil and natural gas to help meet the world’s future supply needs, is limited pipeline infrastructure to carry this product to new markets.

Session presentations are available at www.csgwest.org/presentations.aspx
Growing Economies, Redesigning Agencies and Economic Trends

July 31, 2013 CSG West Annual Meeting
Las Vegas, Nevada

Growing State Economies: Twelve Actions

Erin Sparks, a senior policy analyst for the National Governors Association’s Center for Best Practices outlined twelve actions states could implement to spur economic growth. Her research indicated the majority of growth in state economies comes from companies already doing business in the state. Only 2% of growth comes from companies recruited to a state. Entrepreneurship is also a key component of successful programs with current data showing that more startup companies come from the 45-64 age group than from ages 25 to 35. According to Sparks, states should also target high growth companies by company age and economic sector. Finally, states should develop collaborations among state agencies, the private sector and universities instead of specific programs.

Redesigning State Economic Development Agencies

Ms. Sparks also presented on how state agencies have been redesigning economic development agencies to meet rising global competition, decrease program inefficiencies, and respond to fiscal constraints. Successful states have involved the private sector more, not for funding but for business expertise – primarily recruiting CEOs from high growth companies. The most successful agencies are nimble to change, follow core missions closely, and have active governors in promoting economic development efforts.

How Did New Mexico Lead the Nation in Exporting in 2012?

Ed Herrera, International Trade Director for New Mexico, outlined the aspects of a successful state trade office. First, the office helps companies with market research and distribution, product adaptation to foreign markets, and market support. Second, the office assists companies in overcoming barriers to trade such as language, culture, and legal and regulatory obstacles. Finally, the state office helps companies locate export financing. Herrera’s closing observation was the shifting away from being Eurocentric to more trade in the Western hemisphere.

Session presentations are available at www.csgwest.org/presentations.aspx
Education Committee

The Education forums provide the opportunity for Western legislators to share innovative programs and best practices aimed at achieving successful educational outcomes with limited resources.

Education Committee members discussed critical policy options that could help create an educational system in which all students receive a rich education, completing high school with skills to succeed in college and the workforce. Specifically, they addressed policy and practice targeting early learning and preschool as well as implementation of rigorous academic standards and assessment systems. Program presenters offered the tools needed to move state educational systems beyond the traditional setting to create innovative environments where students have the opportunity to graduate ready for success and with the ability to reach their full potential.

Dr. Scott Norton, Director of Standards, Assessments and Accountability for the Council of Chief State School Officers, presented a national perspective on education reform and transformation and shared what’s currently happening in the West with the Common Core State Standards. Jim Squires of the National Institute for Early Education Research offered an overview of preschool/early education and the importance of access and high quality programs. Nan Vendegna, Supervisor of Colorado Preschool Program, spoke about access to preschool. Kelli Bohanon, Assistant Director of Partnership and Collaboration at the Washington State Department of Early Learning, spoke about high quality preschool programs.

The second panel on rigorous academic standards and assessment systems was moderated by Oregon Senator Arnie Roblan. Cindy Sharp - Director of Assessment, Program Accountability, and Curriculum of the Nevada Department of Education - spoke on the Common Core State Standards transition plan and implementation challenges and opportunities. Michael Gilligan, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives from Achieve, spoke about the Next Generation Science Standards.

Session presentations are available at www.csgwest.org/presentations.aspx
The inaugural meeting of the Higher Education Task Force explored the rising cost of college and how to provide career skills for a globally competitive marketplace.

David Longanecker, President of Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education in Boulder, Colorado, set the stage with an overview of Higher Education in the West. Representative Myra Crownover of Texas, member of the Joint Committee on Oversight of Higher Education Governance, Excellence and Transparency, gave an overview of their joint committee’s efforts. Chancellor Dan Klaich and Constance Brooks of the Nevada Systems of Higher Education shared their state’s vision and plan.

Dennis Jones, President of National Center for Higher Education Management Systems in Boulder, Colorado spoke about higher education finance challenges and offered policy options. Dr. Jose Garcia, Secretary of New Mexico Higher Education Department, shared an overview on higher education financing in the state of New Mexico. Richard Rhoda, Executive Director of Tennessee Higher Education Commission, talked about his state’s commitment to making postsecondary education available to all of its citizens, expanding access to a greater number of students and assisting citizens in reaching their educational goals.

Session presentations are available at www.csgwest.org/presentations.aspx
An Electrical Transmission Compact

August 1, 2013 CSG West Annual Meeting
Las Vegas, Nevada

Genesis of the Project

Kansas Representative Tom Sloan spoke to problems with siting of electrical transmission lines, particularly the need to move renewable energy sources that are quite far from customer loads. Under the leadership of the CSG Center for Interstate Compacts, an advisory board was created to explore the creation of an interstate electrical transmission compact with the following guiding principles: maintain states’ rights, be cost and time effective for all parties, include a way for federal agencies to participate, reduce litigation, and ensure hearings in every state where a line was being considered.

What is an interstate compact?

Crady DeGolian, the Director of CSG’s National Center for Interstate Compacts, outlined that compacts promote cooperation, provide for uniformity of laws, create economies of scale, ensure collective sovereignty, and respond to national priorities. The reason an electrical transmission compact could easily move ahead was the passage of the 2005 Energy Policy Act that allowed states to form compacts. Compact goals are to simplify the application process, create a governance structure, have a dispute resolution process, and be financed by the applicants.

How Does an Electrical Transmission Compact Work?

Washington Representative Jeff Morris explained that one of the major advantages of a compact is to expedite a timeline for permitting. The compact will be composed of three member panels from each state with an Interstate Compact Commission for administrative support. The compact should be competitive with the rest of the world, have federal participation, be technology neutral, and include national partners.

How is a Compact Administered?

Sam Razor, the Assistant Director for the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision in Lexington, Kentucky, described the administrative structure of the Compact and the processes within the Commission he oversees. A key aspect of the Commission’s work is that all direction comes from the states; the staff does not work unilaterally apart from the states. The staff provides on-site training, runs a mentoring program, self-audits for efficiencies, and works to be flexible in its services to members.

Session presentations are available at www.csgwest.org/presentations.aspx
Fiscal Perspectives: What’s Ahead for States
August 1, 2013 CSG West Annual Meeting
Las Vegas, Nevada

Fiscal Perspectives: What’s Ahead for States
Brian Sigritz from the National Association of State Budget Officers provided an overview of current state fiscal conditions, including an outlook for states in fiscal 2014 and beyond. CSG’s Washington D.C. Director, Chris Whatley, shared perspectives on how events in Washington will impact states in the 2014 legislative sessions. He noted that while cliff-like deadlines have moved off the front pages, they continue to drive much of the thinking on Capitol Hill. However, with both the House and Senate taking up tax reform and the Marketplace Fairness Act moving forward, the federal agenda continues to offer both threats and opportunities for state budgets.

A Look at Budget Strategies for Better Outcomes
Dr. Gary VanLandingham discussed the Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative - a model that a growing number of states are using to help improve the return on investment delivered to citizens. Charles Sallee of the New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee shared preliminary experiences using the Results First cost-benefit analysis tool. John Schaff, Utah’s Legislative Auditor General, identified methodology and case examples of performance audits that significantly impacted the budget process, demonstrating how legislative committees control the audit scope and implementation of the recommendations.

Economic Recovery: Consumer Spending and Housing Industry
Michael P. Niemira – VP, Chief Economist and Research Director for the International Council of Shopping Centers – addressed the question of how important brick-and-mortar shops are for state and local government revenues and provided some key trends affecting consumer spending. Rick Judson, President of the National Association of Home Builders, explored the current status of the U.S. housing market and challenges faced in the legislative arena.

Session presentations are available at www.csgwest.org/presentations.aspx
Health Committee

With particular focus on the recent passage of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the Health Committee addresses challenges and identifies common health goals and solutions.

Health Insurance Exchanges

July 31, 2013 CSG West Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, Nevada

Health Committee members exchanged information about their states’ innovative approaches to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) implementation in developing insurance exchanges, heard insurance company perspectives, and received a federal update.

Arkansas Representative John Burris talked about Arkansas House Bill 1143 that will use federal Medicaid funding to provide private option health care for low-income residents. Jon M. Hager, executive director of Silver State Health Insurance Exchange, shared the elements of the Nevada Health Link web portal. Among the Exchange goals is to increase the number of insured persons and assist residents with access to programs and premium assistance tax credits.

Leanne Gassaway, Regional Vice President for State Advocacy at America’s Health Insurance Plans in Washington, D.C. shared information on key elements on the health insurance market. Herb K. Schultz, Regional Director for Region IX of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, provided an update on the Health Insurance as it related to Western states. He shared that all qualified health plans will cover essential health benefits such as ambulance and emergency services, hospitalization, maternity and new born care, mental health and substance abuse services, behavioral health treatment, prescription drugs, rehabilitative and habilitative services and devices, laboratory services and preventive care.

Health: How Much does Diabetes Cost your State?

August 1, 2013 CSG West Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, Nevada

The rapid growth of diabetes in the United States is a large contributor to increased U.S. health care costs. The American Diabetes Association (ADA) estimates cost of diagnosed diabetes has risen to $245 billion in 2012 from $174 billion in 2007. According to the Center for Disease Control, diabetes is the leading cause of kidney failure, non-traumatic lower limb amputations, and new cases of blindness among adults in the United States.

Francisco Prieto, M.D., Member of ADA National Advocacy Committee & ADA Latino Diabetes Action Council, shared why legislators should care about the rising incidence of diabetes and the latest ADA data on costs of diabetes to each state. Michelle Hansen, Chronic Disease Manager at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, talked about her state’s effort to “move the needle” on diabetes, and why Colorado is the state with the lowest incidence of diabetes in the nation. Heather Hodge, Director of Chronic Disease Prevention at YMCA, explained the Diabetes Prevention Program and other resources.
Water Issues in the West

August 1, 2013 CSG West Annual Meeting
Las Vegas, Nevada

Ken Nowak from the Bureau of Reclamation shared the findings of the Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study. The study found that by 2060, there will be a supply and demand imbalance of 3.2 million acre-feet per year. The Bureau collected more than 150 suggestions for how to deal with the imbalance, and then looked at the cost and the benefit of implementing each of the solutions. Currently the Bureau is studying the options to determine which are the most feasible in solving the water supply shortage.

Doug Bennett of the Southern Nevada Water Authority and Daniel Gerrity from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas spoke about water conservation and reuse. While per capita water use has decreased greatly in the last 10 years, overall water use has remained stagnant as population growth has eaten up the reduced per capita usage. Bennett admitted that while they have a ways to go, their reducing vegetation program and water capture and reuse program are making great progress. Daniel focused on how water reuse can be used to reduce consumptive water usage. He showed examples of towns that have added water reuse by treating waste water into drinking supply.

Dr. Kelly Redmond, Deputy Director and Regional Climatologist of the Western Regional Climate Center in Reno, Nevada talked about climate change and how it will affect water supply in the future. To close out the session, Tony Willardson of the Western States Water Council, shared policies that can be implemented to deal with climate extremes and water supply.
Nevada Welcomes Western Legislators

July 30-August 2, 2013
CSG West 66th Annual Meeting

CSG West Chair, Nevada Senator Kelvin D. Atkinson (pictured above), welcomed nearly 600 lawmakers, private sector and guests assembled for the 66th CSG West annual meeting held at The Mirage in Las Vegas, Nevada.
The Future Starts Now

Trend spotter Magnus Lindkvist energized the crowd during the Opening Session with new ways of thinking about the future. With technologies simpler than they once were, according to Lindkvist, anyone who can enable people to do more with less will have a winning formula. He noted that change happens slowly; and you should never reject an idea because it hasn’t worked before. Lindkvist used examples of changes over time, which answered the theme of his presentation, “When does the future begin?”

Leadership Appreciation

Beth Loudy, executive director of State Government Affairs Council (SGAC) (left) and Jennifer Mendez, board member of SGAC and vice president of government relations for The Carpet & Rug Institute, presented a prestigious leadership award to Senator Kelvin Atkinson of Nevada in recognition of his dedication for serving as Chair of CSG West.

Politics in America

A newswoman with more than a decade of experience covering the world’s biggest stories, Claire Shipman, a senior contributor to ABC News, took meeting participants to the front lines of global events. Shipman provided an inside look at the events playing out in today’s headlines, offering a global view of the difficult role the U.S. plays in the world today and the many challenges that face the Obama administration.
Rich Karlgaard shared economic predictions from a unique vantage point as a television commentator, board director and entrepreneur-turned-publisher/columnist for Forbes magazine. His identification of post-recession trends driving business and investment climates portrayed a look at an American Economic Renaissance geared toward cities and states that can foster science and innovation.

Bettye Fahrenkamp Award

CSG West Chair, Nevada Senator Kelvin Atkinson (right), presented the Bettye Fahrenkamp Award for Distinguished Legislative Leadership on Behalf of Western States to former Nevada Co-Speaker Lynn Hettrick. This annual award, named in honor of Bettye Fahrenkamp of Fairbanks, Alaska, recognizes leaders whose legislative careers demonstrate the ability to see and work beyond the border of their own states in the interest of the West.

Hettrick served in the Nevada Assembly from 1992 to 2006, including a stint as Co-Speaker of the Assembly in 1995 and Minority Leader for 10 years. During that time he served as CSG West Chair (2001-2002) and as the national Chair of the Council of State Governments (2005). He led several regional and national task forces during his tenure with CSG that were consensus building and facilitated the exchange of good ideas across state borders. While he has served in other community and state government capacities, Hettrick continues a distinguished career serving the people of Nevada as Deputy Director of the Nevada Department of Agriculture.
Former CEO of the highly successful Southwest Airlines, Howard Putnam’s ultimate objective focused on “bottom line improvement.” He believes cultures that place people as their #1 priority have the greatest long-term impact and success. Putnam’s list of 10 essential leadership attributes includes honesty and integrity; passion; vision; excellent listening skills; no AEE – arrogance, ego or exclusion; ability to embrace change; international mentality; grasping the value of technology; education and experience; and being a people leader.
Future of Voting: Technology and Change

The Future of Western Legislatures forum, chaired by Washington Representative Sam Hunt and vice chair Representative Jeff Thompson of Idaho, convened at the annual meeting. Several experts shared information about the new developments and implementation of election technology. Panelist included Zach Markovits, Manager of the PEW Election Initiatives program, along with former Washington Secretary of State Sam Reed and current Secretaries of State, Ross Miller from Nevada and Scott Gessler from Colorado.

The presentations provided concrete examples of how technology is changing almost every aspect of our lives, including the voting and election administration. State legislators play an important policy making role when it comes to voting - affecting how technology is used to improve voter registration and access, disseminating election information and ensuring election integrity. The diverse panel of experts discussed current uses of technology, shared best practices and offered candid perspectives on what the future holds for technology and voters.

Women in Politics: How Women are Changing the Workplace and World

“Good Morning America” reporter Claire Shipman discussed the changing role of women in politics. As a career woman who is the mother of two young children, Shipman shared what it’s like to balance a high-profile professional life with a hectic personal life. She offered tips on how to survive and even thrive in the fast-paced world. Shipman is the co-author of The New York Times bestseller, Womenomics: Write Your Own Rules for Success.
Of all the CSG regions, the West is the only region that borders both Canada and Mexico, providing a unique opportunity to bring together state and provincial lawmakers from all three countries to discuss critical issues facing North America.

Dr. Robert A. Pastor, professor and director of the Center for North American Studies at the American University, opened the summit with the main themes of his book published in 2011: “The North American Idea: A Vision of a Continental Future.” The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was successful in breaking down trade barriers leading to tripled trade and quintupled foreign investment among the U.S., Mexico and Canada, increasing the region’s share of the world economy.

Consul General of Canada in Los Angeles, David Fransen, reminded attendees that Canada buys three times more products from the U.S. than China. Canada is the #1 economic partner of U.S. trade in goods and services, generating $1.3 million every minute.

Rick Van Schoik, Director of the Energy and Sustainability Portfolios at the North American Research Partnership, shared findings from a Trilateral Border Symposium held earlier this year at Arizona State University. The top seven recommendations focused on security, competitiveness, and energy.

From Canada’s Privy Council Office (PCO), Caron Wilson - Policy Advisor for the Border Implementation Team, gave an update on implementation of the “Beyond the Border” action plan. This plan identifies four key areas of cooperation: 1) addressing threats early 2) trade facilitation, economic growth, and jobs 3) integrated cross-border law enforcement, and 4) critical infrastructure and cybersecurity. She noted that more than 300,000 people cross the U.S.-Canada border daily and that 2012 total U.S. exports to Canada exceeded total U.S. exports to China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and Singapore combined.

From the Mexican State of Hidalgo, Economic Development Secretary Jose Pablo Maauad Ponton confirmed that manufacturing in Mexico is growing at a rate of 3% in Hidalgo, and products are of the highest standards. Many Mexican states are in ideal locations although better technology, security, infrastructure and an efficient customs process are items to be addressed.

Honorable Cal Dallas, Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations for the Government of Alberta, shared some of the existing challenges in market access, including some that could reduce energy costs in the U.S.

Consul of Mexico in Las Vegas, Julian Adem Diaz de Leon, emphasized that Mexico is a reliable global partner for both Canada and the U.S. Mexico is the third-largest foreign provider to U.S. petroleum and the largest foreign supplier of fresh fruits and vegetables. Mexico is Canada’s fourth largest trading partner worldwide and first in Latin America. As such, each country has a fundamental stake in the success of the other.

Russ Jones, current Vice Chair of the Border Trade Alliance (BTA), closed the summit by highlighting BTA’s commitment to improving the quality of life in border communities through the development of trade and commerce. While sequestration may put a significant strain on the U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s ability to efficiently process trade, Jones applauded the agency for keeping private industry in close consult through the process.
Nevada-Hosted Policy Tours  Wednesday July 31, 2013

Downtown Redevelopment
Years of efforts to revitalize downtown Las Vegas have had a dramatic effect on the city’s urban core. This tour highlighted the City of Las Vegas Redevelopment Agency’s work and revitalization of the area’s true center of community, culture and commerce by providing a driving tour showcasing the redevelopment area. The participants visited the new Las Vegas City Hall building, which is a glassy, futuristic, solar-powered structure that illuminates the neon heritage of Las Vegas at night. Participants also saw the location of the new Zappos headquarters, which is located in the former City Hall. The company has spent millions of dollars to renovate the site and will bring its 1,500 employees to the site in the fall. The tour included a drive through Symphony Park, which is a 61-acre mixed-use urban community located in the heart of downtown Las Vegas. Finally, the group traveled down the famous Las Vegas Boulevard past Las Vegas’ Neon Museum and retired iconic sights that have been restored.

Hoover Dam
The Hoover Dam, a National Historic Landmark, which is ranked as one of America’s Seven Modern Civil Engineering Wonders, was the premier tour of the CSG West Annual Meeting. On the ride out to the dam, a history professor from the College of Southern Nevada provided a narrative of the impacts that the dam has made to the southwest since it was built. At the dam, a video and an in-person oral narrative was presented by the Bureau of Reclamation regarding its construction and electrical output. Clean water was also discussed in relation to the drought the Colorado River Basin is experiencing. Stunning views of the Mike O’Callaghan-Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge, an engineering wonder in its own right, added to the beauty of the experience.

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area
Located in the Mojave Desert about 15 miles west of Las Vegas, the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area offers majestic views of extensive red rock formations, sandstone cliffs, limestone mountains and open desert. Approximately 50 people took the tour, which started at the visitor center with a brief overview of the functions, history, and possible future expansion of the Conservation area given by a member of the Red Rock Canyon Interpretative Association. Following the briefing, the participants were free to wander the visitors section, view its displays, and step outside to take pictures and view the massive “Earth, Wind, and Fire” exhibits. Participants then boarded buses and travelled the 13-mile loop through the area.
Annual Legislative Training Assembly (ALTA)

ALTA maintains the CSG West commitment to offer capacity building opportunities for lawmakers, both new and experienced, at each year’s CSG West annual meeting. This year’s trainings focused on communications.

In the morning session, Dr. Kari Ellingson, Associate Vice President for Student Development at the University of Utah, provided perceptions on the intergenerational dynamics of today’s workforce and constituency. Critical to effective communication is understanding your audience. Dr. Ellingson shared insights on the differences and similarities among generations focusing on demystifying the attributes, motivations, and outlooks that drive today’s four major generations: Silent or Traditional, Baby Boomers, Generation X, and Millennials. Ellingson shared how these translate into expectations and beliefs about government, politics and issues.

The afternoon session emphasized practical yet critical information on working with reporters, finding one’s voice, and polishing skills to effectively craft and deliver your message. The two trainers, Susan Feeney and Jon Summers, provided guidance in these areas and recruited volunteers to “test out” the communication principles. Working in pairs, volunteers made brief, what is termed “elevator” speeches about their key legislative priorities. The trainers critiqued the speeches, providing communication tips. The training included insights on how to avoid pitfalls in responding to both traditional and new media. A group of volunteers participated in mock interviews with surprise questions.

The last portion of training focused on new media, particularly Facebook and Twitter. Useful guidance was provided on how to establish, enhance and shape social media presence. This teaching included extensive real world tactics for effective communication, not just with the press, but with the public, fellow legislators and other constituencies.
WESTRAIN offers professional development training to legislators and legislative staff by bringing expert trainers to state capitols.

Trainings Are Offered In The Following Areas

Communications Training
Communications or media expert helps legislators and/or legislative staff become more effective at dealing with the media and public speaking.

Time And Priority Management
Productivity experts help legislators and/or legislative staff manage the competing demands for their time and attention.

Stress Management
Learn strategies to cope more easily with workloads, expectations, and daily drama that cause stress and burnout.

Negotiation, Consensus Building, Conflict Resolution
Negotiation techniques for legislators on how to reach common ground, make a deal, and build consensus.

Ethics
Going beyond rules and laws to act ethically and avoid the appearance of dishonorable behavior.

Civil Discourse And Trust
Explore strategies to improve public discourse, build trust, and lead to constructive debate and policy solutions.

Pilot Training Programs
In the summer of 2012, the CSG West officers launched WESTRAIN, a pilot speaker’s bureau project to deliver legislative effectiveness training directly to state capitols. California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana and Nevada were selected as the first pilot states. WESTRAIN offered training at new member orientations or other training events for lawmakers and staff.

California
Boston-based productivity expert Kevin Stacey (TrainRight, Inc.) provided a half day combination session on time and stress management for California Senate staff on March 22, 2013. The session was also live-streamed to district offices.

Colorado

Idaho
Ethics trainer, former Iowa Representative Scott Raecker participated as part of a required half day ethics training on January 9, 2013. An estimated 200 individuals attended, including legislators and staff.

Montana
New Jersey-based communications trainer Bill Graham participated as part of new member orientation held on November 16, 2012. When legislative leaders asked him to modify his public speaking presentation to include media relations, he did so right on the spot.

Nevada
Boston-based trainer Kevin Stacey delivered two sessions on January 16, 2012. At the request of legislative leaders, time management training was delivered during new member orientation (17 legislators attended), and stress management training was delivered to legislative staff (more than 100 attended).
Thirty-eight lawmakers from the West graduated from the 14th Western Legislative Academy (WLA), CSG West’s premier professional development program for newer legislators. The WLA Class of 2013 exceeded expectations during three and a half days of training sessions aimed at strengthening their skills and building stronger legislative institutions.

Training sessions taught by top-notch faculty included time management, leadership, the art of decision-making, mental toughness, legislative ethics, negotiations, consensus building, and approaches to enhancing communication skills. Participating lawmakers were also provided an overview of legislative institutions, conducted team building exercises at the U.S. Air Force Academy and were inspired by a portrayal of the first U.S. President, General George Washington.

The WLA boasts 526 graduates, with nearly 300 still serving in Western legislatures. Western lawmakers within their first four years of service are eligible to apply for the WLA. For more information, go to http://www.csgwest.org/legislativeacademy/WesternLegislativeAcademy.aspx
Montana Hosts Western Legislative Directors
September 25-27 2013 in Whitefish, Montana

Nonpartisan legislative staff leaders from the Western region participated in management training and sharing of best legislative management practices during CSG West’s Legislative Service Agency/Research Directors Committee meeting in Montana in September. The group convenes annually for “outside” expertise on management training and “inside” sharing of best practices.

They learned strategies for managing stress in today’s legislative environment from organizational development specialist Curt Swenson. Professor Quin Monson of Brigham Young University shared public opinion trends shaping the West. And, Former Secretary of the Senate from Oregon, Judy Hall, led a discussion on how to build better relationships within state capitols.

Members also participated in panels on legislative management, intergenerational challenges, transparency versus confidentiality, technology advances, dealing with partisan gridlock and legislative structures.

Strategies For Managing Stress in Today’s Environment

Building Better Relationships

Mike Christensen, Director of Utah Office of Legislative Research & General Counsel, chaired the meeting. Charlotte Carter-Yamauchi, Hawaii’s acting director of the Legislative Reference Bureau serves as vice chair.
Demographics and Innovations in Technology

July 31, 2013 CSG West Annual Meeting
Las Vegas, Nevada

Convoked at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) Richard Tam Alumni Center, the CSG West WESTRENDS Board focused on two significant subjects affecting the Western region.

Changing Politics and Demographics

Dr. Robert Lang, director of the Brookings Institute West at UNLV, provided an overview of changing demographics and politics of the West that have transformed the region into America’s “New Heartland,” with a rising constituency that will serve as a key swing vote in future state and national elections. Lang’s presentation included data on demographic trends shaping the political landscape, such as the rise of minorities, urbanization and emerging metropolitan voting patterns, and the Millennial Generation. Recent redistricting and reapportionment processes were discussed as proponents of the intensification of the urban–rural divide in the West.

Science and Technology Shaping Government

Former Nevada Assembly Majority Leader and current Associate Director of the Lied Institute for Real Estate Studies at UNLV, Marcus Conklin, presented a segment on innovations in technology and how they are shaping the role of government. Conklin spoke about the speed and scope of these changes that have revolutionized the manner in which individuals and industries across a plethora of fields function.

Mr. Conklin also spoke about the role and challenges of state governments to adapt to these transformational changes while protecting privacy and providing services to the public. The presentation analyzed some of the innovations that are requiring governments to alter approaches and practices, and what this means for the evolution of the West.

WESTRENDS

WESTRENDS focuses on the implications for policy makers of the demographic, economic and cultural trends that are shaping Western states. Forums provide opportunities to evaluate the direction and velocity of trends that affect the quality of life in the West.

2013 WESTRENDS Board Participants

Representative Beth Kerttula, Alaska
Senator John McComish, Arizona
Senator Nancy Todd, Colorado
Representative Marcus Oshiro, Hawaii
Representative Maxine Bell, Idaho
Representative Douglas Coffin, Montana
Assemblywoman Irene Bustamante Adams, Nevada
Representative Rudy Martinez, New Mexico
Senate President Pro Tem Ginny Burdick, Oregon
Senator Ralph Okerlund, Utah
Senator Karen Fraser, Washington
Representative Norine Kasperik, Wyoming
The purpose of the Legislative Council on River Governance (LCRG) is to enhance state legislative engagement over natural resources and river governance in the Columbia and Snake River Basins, and to unite the states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington to develop a proactive agenda of legislative action and communications.

The 2013 LCRG meeting occurred October 3-4 in Boardman, Oregon at the Port of Morrow. This year the LCRG was chaired by Oregon Senator Doug Whitsett with a major focus on the Columbia River Treaty and the benefits that the treaty provides to Columbia River Basin States. As 2014 is the first year that Canada or the United States can choose to unilaterally give 10-year notice of their intent to end the Treaty, both countries are in the process of reviewing the treaty.

Representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers, Bonneville Power Administration, and the Columbia River Treaty Review Team for the Government of British Columbia shared perspectives on the Treaty. Members also heard from the First Nations, ports, and agricultural interests about the Treaty as well as receiving an update on the Hanford Nuclear Site Cleanup.

Copies of the meeting presentations are available at: [http://www.csgwest.org/programs/2013LCRG.aspx](http://www.csgwest.org/programs/2013LCRG.aspx)

The 2014 meeting will be held in Montana and chaired by Montana Senator Jennifer Fielder.
Border Legislative Conference

XXVII Forum, September 5-7, 2013 in El Paso, Texas

Hosted with the support of Texas State Senator Jose Rodriguez, legislators representing nine of the 10 U.S.-Mexico border states assembled for the XXVII Forum of the Border Legislative Conference (BLC). The meeting provided lawmakers an opportunity to engage with experts on key issues such as cross-border transportation infrastructure, development of border master plans and the impact of climate change on the region’s agriculture and water supplies.

The meeting kicked off with welcome messages from Congressman Beto O’Rourke and El Paso Mayor Oscar Leeser. The El Paso presentation of The State of the Border Report, a comprehensive analysis of the U.S.-Mexico border, was held at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) by Erik Lee, Executive Director of the North American Research Partnership, and Chris Wilson, Associate from the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars - Mexico Institute.

Ana Luisa Fajer, Director General for North America of Mexico’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was keynote speaker and discussed the role of state legislatures in fostering innovation and enhanced North American cooperation. Members examined implications for the border region regarding recent initiatives in Colorado and Washington to legalize recreational use of marijuana. CSG West Vice Chair, Colorado Senator Nancy Todd, provided an overview of the initiative process and how Colorado is moving forward in the implementation.

Members visited the Museum of the Revolution in Ciudad Juarez, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Chamizal Treaty signed in 1963 by U.S. President Lyndon Johnson and Mexican President Adolfo Lopez Mateos. The treaty settled a land dispute between the two countries along the Rio Grande. Several dignitaries participated in the celebration, including U.S. Consul General in Ciudad Juarez, Ian Brownlee; Mexico Consul General in El Paso, Jacob Prado; Ciudad Juarez Mayor Hector Murguia Lardizabal and Ralph Seitsinger, Mayor of El Paso in 1963.

Chihuahua Diputado E. Gabriel Flores Viramontes was recognized for his service as 2013 BLC Chair. California Senator Lou Correa will chair the BLC in 2014 with the support of Nuevo Leon Diputada Imelda Alejandro as the Vice Chair. The next BLC will convene in Nuevo Leon, Mexico in 2014.

Left to right: Texas Senator Jose Rodriguez; 2013 BLC Chair Diputado E. Gabriel Flores Viramontes; Mexico Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director for North America Ana Luisa Fajer; Consul General of Mexico in El Paso Jacob Prado

Sponsorship Appreciation

The BLC appreciates financial support provided through a cooperative agreement with USAID/Mexico, along with sponsorship support from El Paso Electric and Pfizer Inc.
A Model of Multi-Branch Cooperation

The U.S.-Mexico State Alliance Partnership is a dynamic collaborative and multi-branch program administered by CSG aimed at strengthening binational cooperation among federal, state and local officials of both countries. Funded through a grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Alliance Partnership enhances the role of state officials to address shared public policy concerns that transcend international borders.

Conference of Western Attorneys General (CWAG)

On March 5-6, 2013 San Luis Potosi Attorney General Miguel Angel Garcia Covarrubias visited Lawrence Wasden, the Idaho Attorney General, in Boise, Idaho. The Attorney General (AG) was accompanied by his Chief Deputy Irma Rodriguez Aranda. The delegation met with AG Wasden to discuss binational collaboration, especially regarding transnational criminal organizations and the bilateral cooperation necessary to combat them. The Attorneys General also discussed implementation of an oral trial system, as the state of San Luis Potosi will start oral trials next year.

National Association of State Treasurers (NAST)

On June 28, 2013 the National Association of State Treasurers adopted a resolution stating that their strongly support to continue the efforts of the NAST Foundation to inform and be informed by subnational officials in Mexico including the sharing of information regarding financial literacy. This is in direct support of the memorandums of understanding to provide financial literacy materials to the Mexican states of Campeche, Morelos, Tamaulipas, and the Distrito Federal.

In September 2013, the National Commission to Protect Users of Financial Institutions (CONDUSEF in Spanish) website was linked to Tomorrow’s Money in Spanish and “Ahorrando” websites. The Mexican Treasury Agency in charge of financial literacy has for more than a decade invested in developing financial literacy contents for students from grades 1-12, homemakers, non-finance professionals. They have authorized a link to the NAST Foundation websites to share financial literacy contents in Spanish. The URLs in English & Spanish are: http://www.tomorrowsmoney.org and http://www.ahorrando.org
National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) and the Mexican Association of Secretaries of Economic Development (AMSDE)

New Mexico Lieutenant Governor John Sanchez, in his newly appointed role as West Region Chair, hosted the inaugural Economic Forum of the National Lieutenant Governors Association and the Mexican Association of Secretaries of Economic Development from February 8-10, 2013 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The forum included working sessions on transportation, education and workforce, exports and trade. Lt. Gov. Sanchez moderated the roundtable discussion on exports and foreign direct investment (FDI). Forum participants included: Lt. Gov. Tim Murray of Massachusetts and Lt. Gov. Yvonne Prettner Solon of Minnesota; the Arizona Secretary of State, Ken Bennett; the Economic Development Secretaries of the Mexican states of Coahuila, Jose Antonio Gutierrez Jardon; Colima, Rafael Gutierrez Villalobos; and Hidalgo, Jose Pablo Maauad Ponton. The forum was made possible by generous support from a cooperative agreement between CSG and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The U.S.-Mexico State Alliance Partnership is comprised of various partners that carry out binational efforts, including NLGA.

North American Research Partnership and Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

On May 23, 2013, The State of the Border report was launched by co-editors Erik Lee and Christopher Wilson at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC. The launch included remarks and perspectives from the following luminaries:

- Representative Raul Grijalva, Co-Chair, Congressional Border Caucus
- Representative Filemon Vela, Co-Chair, Congressional Border Caucus
- Andrew Selee, Vice President for Programs, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
- Edward Alden, Bernard L. Schwartz Senior Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations
- Lisa Almodovar, Senior Program Manager, U.S.-Mexico Program, Environmental Protection Agency
- Patrick Kilbride, Executive Director, Strategic Policy Initiatives, Americas, U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- Erik Lee, Executive Director, North American Research Partnership
- Carlos de la Parra, Professor & Researcher, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte
- Christopher Wilson, Associate, Mexico Institute

More information on the report can be found at http://www.wilsoncenter.org/publication/the-state-the-border-report
Western state legislators reach across state and party lines and learn from one another.
CSG West is a region of The Council of State Governments (CSG), classified as a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization for the purpose of research and education. CSG’s Federal Tax Identification Number is 366000818.

Thank you for your participation and investment to strengthen state legislatures in the West!
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>January-May</td>
<td>CSG West staff visits to Western Legislatures during sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hosting Western Legislative Academy Alumni events</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 25</td>
<td>CSG West 15th Western Legislative Academy Applications Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>XXVIII Border Legislative Conference, Nuevo Leon, Mexico</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 29-31*</td>
<td>CSG Cybersecurity &amp; Privacy Policy Academy, Washington, D.C.</td>
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<td>June 19-21</td>
<td>CSG Leadership Forum, Washington, D.C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 7-8*</td>
<td>CSG Electric &amp; Hybrid Vehicle Infrastructure &amp; Smart Grid Implications Policy Academy, Seattle, Washington</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 9-13</td>
<td>CSG West/CSG National Joint Annual Conference, Anchorage, Alaska</td>
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<td>September 5-10</td>
<td>CSG Toll Fellowship Program, Lexington, Kentucky</td>
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<td>September 16-18*</td>
<td>CSG Future of Federal Transportation Program Policy Academy, Washington, D.C.</td>
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<td>September 26-28*</td>
<td>CSG Natural Gas Policy Academy, Denver, Colorado</td>
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<td>Fall</td>
<td>Legislative Council on River Governance</td>
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<td>Fall</td>
<td>Western Legislative Service Agency/Research Directors Committee Annual Training Seminar</td>
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<td>October 2-4*</td>
<td>CSG Workforce Development &amp; Veteran Reentry Policy Academy, Location TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 17-20</td>
<td>CSG West 15th Western Legislative Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2-4*</td>
<td>CSG State Tax Reform Policy Academy, Location TBD</td>
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*Themes and dates are tentative
Save The Date and Join CSG National And CSG West in Anchorage

NEW FRONTIERS. BIG IDEAS.

CSG National & CSG West Annual Conference - Aug. 9–13, 2014

Join CSG National and CSG West in Anchorage, Alaska, for an unparalleled opportunity in America’s last frontier to network, develop leader skills, collaborate and create problem-solving partnerships with colleagues from across the country and around the globe. Save the date and join CSG National and CSG West in Anchorage in 2014.

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» Network with state and provincial leaders from across the country and beyond our international borders as they come together to share ideas and identify solutions to complex public policy issues.

» Discover Alaska’s innovations through policy tours showcasing best practices in the areas of agriculture, economic development, and wildlife management and protection.

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» Crow Creek Mine and Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center Tour: Try gold panning at the historic Crow Creek Mine and get a close-up view of some of Alaska’s wild animals at a nonprofit wildlife rehabilitation and sanctuary center.

» Port of Anchorage Tour: Visit one of Alaska’s largest economic engines and learn why it is essential to the distribution of goods and fuel throughout the state.

Registration now open!
For information on hotels and to register for the 2014 CSG National and CSG West Annual Conference, please visit www.csg.org/2014annualconference

For more information:
CSG West (916) 553-4423 | csgw@csg.org | www.csgwest.org
CSG National (800) 800-1910 | registration@csg.org | www.csg.org
The Knowledge Center provides the tools and information you need to better understand complex policy situations and help you make better decisions for your state.

Specific products and services from CSG’s policy group are wide ranging: national and regional meetings, national policy task forces, state specific forums and training, national reports, fact sheets, interactive websites, interstate compact legislation, policy projects assisting states in the creation of policy, and numerous educational efforts tied to key issues.
Regional by design, CSG is a national community with six offices across the U.S. All CSG members have the opportunity to participate on two levels—regional and national. This structure invites focused participation from members on a more intimate, regional level and also provides a national community to exchange information and ideas. The regional and national offices also invite international participation through partnerships with Canadian provinces.