

From: David Moore <dmoore@nga.org>
To: NGA Front & Centerfc@talk.nga.org
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Subject: Front & Center: Transportation, Digital Learning, Mental Health, Cybersecurity

Front & Center | September 26, 2014 | Full Index of this Week's Stories

[California Expands Electric Vehicle Incentives](#) -- California Gov. Edmund G. Brown signed six bills to increase incentives for purchasing electric vehicles.

[North Carolina Releases Long-Term Transportation Plan](#) -- North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory released a 25-year transportation plan that changes the way transportation projects are funded for the next 10 years and explores future investments at the new funding level.

[Kentucky Funds Education-Workforce Opportunities in Communities](#) -- Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear announced \$160,000 in grant funding for an initiative designed to make local communities more attractive to business investment.

[Maryland Increases Access to Digital Learning Technology](#) -- Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley announced \$4.9 million in grant funding to increase access to the most up-to-date digital learning technology.

[Tennessee Launches Workforce Development Competition](#) -- Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam launched a competition to fund local public-private partnerships that boost postsecondary degree and certificate completion.

[Iowa Proposes Public-Private Job-Training Initiative](#) -- Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad proposed the creation of a public-private partnership center to facilitate public-and private-sector efforts to support job-training.

[Michigan Supports Treatment Alternatives for Mentally Ill Offenders](#) -- Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder hailed the progress of the Mental Health Diversion Council, established in 2013 to help individuals with mental illnesses, disabilities, or substance abuse issues receive appropriate treatment as an alternative to jail or prison.

[South Dakota Looks to Increase Colorectal, Other Screening Rates](#) -- South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard announced that the South Dakota Department of Health will award \$60,000 in grant funding for increasing the number of screenings

for colorectal cancer performed at community health centers and other medical providers.

[Washington Offers Veterans Cybersecurity Job Training](#) -- Washington Gov. Jay Inslee announced a grant to expand career opportunities for veterans in cybersecurity fields.

[New York Strengthens Mass Transit Security Procedures](#) -- New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced an initiative to enhance security at mass transit sites in and around New York City to protect against terrorist threats.

[State Recommendations Released for Clean Energy Development](#) -- The Hoover Institution at Stanford University released a report giving recommendations for state actions to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.

[Open Educational Resources Help College Students Save Money](#) -- The Education Commission of the States released a report looking at efforts to provide cheaper textbooks and course materials to college students.

[Two-Generation Programs Linked to Improved Child Outcomes](#) -- The National Center for Children in Poverty released a report examining state and local policies and support programs that help young children and their parents.

[Transitional Care Associated with Lower Readmission Rates](#) -- A study published in Health Affairs examines the benefits of transitional care interventions, which help patients transfer from hospitals to home care.

[Summit Investigates How Technology can Aid Crime Victims](#) -- The RAND Corporation released a report highlighting findings from its 2014 Technology Summit for Victim Service Providers.

States Utilize Physician Assistant Workforce

The National Governors Association released a paper on how physician assistants (PAs) play a broad and expanding role in the health care system, working in a variety of practice areas and settings because of their adaptability and lower cost.

[The Role of Physician Assistants in Health Care Delivery](#) summarizes the role of PAs in the U.S. health care system and the barriers that may be preventing them from being used to the best of their ability. PAs deliver medical and surgical care in teams with physicians, who provide medical supervision and delegate tasks to the PA. State laws and regulations set the boundaries on scope of practice for PAs, which includes the types of services they can provide and the circumstances in which they are allowed to provide them. The paper also specifies policy considerations for state leaders interested in getting the most value from their physician assistant workforce.

To learn more, please visit the Health Division's [website](#).

Learning Lab on Improving Outcomes for Justice Involved Youth

September 29-30; Avon, CT

Contact: [Jeff McLeod](#)

Key Strategies for Effective Educational Leadership Policy Webinar

October 9, 2014, 3:00 p.m. EDT

Contact: [Richard Laine](#)

Policy Academy on Aligning the Education and Training Pipeline to the Needs of the Economy

October 9-10, 2014; Seattle, WA

Contact: [Brent Parton](#)

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