

From: The Council of State Governments <data@csg.org>
To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov
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Author Jeff Shaara Shares Lessons for the Future from America's Past

New York Times bestselling author Jeff Shaara tells the story of our nation's history through novels about the American Revolution, such as *Rise to Rebellion*, and the Civil War, such as *Gods and Generals*. Shaara was the keynote speaker at the 2016 CSG National Conference opening session on Friday, Dec. 9, in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia. Though our nation's founding often seems distant to us today, Shaara told attendees, if you take a closer look at the events that changed our history, you discover some of the very notions and sentiments that exist in today's political environment.

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Modern Leaders Hear from History Makers

2016 CSG National Conference attendees received a blast from the past during the Toll Fellow Graduation & Luncheon on Saturday, Dec. 10—no time machine required. Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson shared their opinions on government and the Constitution in a conversation about America's beginnings. Here is a special edition of *They Said It*, recapping the debate between these two founding fathers on the Constitution, this new federal-style government and the rights of the states within it.

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Strategies for State Engagement in the Presidential Transition

With President-elect Donald Trump set to take office in January, all eyes are on the administration's transition process, a sweeping and intensive effort that requires the participation of public servants from all levels of the federal government. While the transition looks different from president-elect to president-elect, there are a few common strategies states can use to engage in the transition process, experts told attendees at the "The Next Presidential Administration & Relations with the States" session Dec. 10 at the 2016 CSG National Conference in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia.

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Panelists Discuss Consequences of Aging Water Infrastructure

During the "Water: Trending Issues in the States" session at the 2016 CSG National Conference on Friday, a few attendees sipped the ice water poured from pitchers on the tables. In the U.S., there is not typically concern about whether or not it's safe to drink the water. However, "we do have, in this country, a problem with our drinking water infrastructure on the pipes side of it," said Brian Pallasch of the American Society of Civil Engineers. The problem will only get worse, and costly, if the nation doesn't invest in the aging infrastructure, he said.

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State Leaders Discuss the Future of Charter Schools

It has been 25 years since the passage of the first state law authorizing charter schools in Minnesota. On Saturday, Dec. 10 at the 2016 CSG National Conference, three panelists—state government leaders from Kentucky, Massachusetts and North Carolina—reflected on the history of charter schools and discussed visions for the future.

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Attracting the 'Right' Investment Can Boost State Economies

Foreign direct investment, or FDI, is a vital component of states' economies, helping build new industries and supporting nearly 6.4 million jobs nationwide. But attracting foreign investment is increasingly difficult, said experts during Thursday's "Best Practices in Attracting Investment" session, presented by the State International Development Organizations, or SIDO, at the 2016 CSG National Conference.

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Re-evaluating Health Spending in 2017

Health spending in the United States is big business, consuming 17 percent of the gross domestic product. But according to experts at the "Health Care 2017: Rough Seas Ahead" session, sponsored by the CSG Health Public Policy Committee, at the 2016 CSG National Conference, higher health expenditures don't always translate to better health outcomes.

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CSG Campaigns Packs 36,000 Meals for Food Insecure in Virginia

In Virginia, 1 in 8 people struggles with hunger. Members of The Council of State Governments gathered at the culmination of the 2016 CSG National Conference Dec. 11 in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia, to help address this need as part of the CSG Campaign Against Hunger initiative.

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Interstate Groundwater Disputes and the U.S. Supreme Court

Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2 p.m. EST

FREE CSG webinar presented by CSG West and CSG South/Southern Legislative Conference

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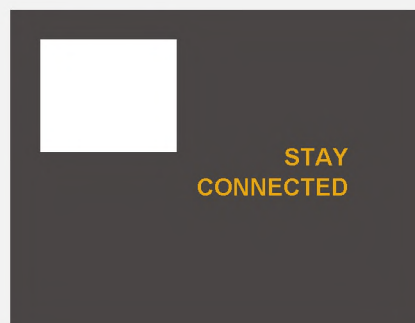
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Toll Free: 1-800-800-1910

Email: Membership@csg.org

www.csg.org

The Council of State Governments
1776 Avenue of the States
Lexington, KY 40511



The Council of State Governments, 1776 Avenue of the States, Lexington, KY 40511

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