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Date: 9/14/2015 10:10:38 AM
Subject: Broadband Expansion; Arts & STEM; Justice Reform; Mileage Reimbursement

Issue: 31

September 14, 2015

Building Partnerships for Broadband Expansion

Rural communities shouldn't have to settle for slower Internet speeds. That was the message of Jonathan Chambers, chief of the Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Analysis at the Federal Communications Commission, addressing the National Association of State Technology Directors last month in Cincinnati.

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Give Me an A: Educators Fuse Art and STEM

Adding art has turned STEM into STEAM at many K-12 schools and postsecondary institutions across the country. Not everyone implements STEAM the same way, but education leaders and policymakers generally agree that fostering creativity is essential in preparing students for tomorrow's workforce.

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Criminal Justice Reform Gains Momentum

Even as partisan tension increases in advance of the 2016 elections, national policymakers on both sides of the aisle can cite one area where many find broad agreement: The need for comprehensive criminal justice reform. In Washington, D.C., growing momentum behind efforts to reform the criminal justice system has pushed the issue to the forefront of lawmakers' agendas for the fall.

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Pricing Rooftop Solar

All across the country, state legislatures and regulatory commissions are debating the path forward for distributed energy resources such as rooftop solar. In a FREE eCademy webcast on Sept. 22 at 2 p.m. EDT, two former regulatory commissioners will discuss how electric rates are determined, the impact of policies promoting distributed generation, and how to design public policies to enable the growth of distributed generation while ensuring electric rates are fair and affordable for all electric customers.

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STEM Jobs By State in 2014

While occupations in the science, technology, engineering and math—or STEM—fields may not make up a huge portion of total jobs, those positions are growing quickly. STEM jobs make up about 6.2 percent of all employment (8.3 million positions) and grew at a rate of just under 10 percent from May 2010 to May 2014 while total employment across all occupations grew by 6 percent over the same period.

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State Employee Mileage Reimbursement Rates, 2015

The Internal Revenue Service sets the federal reimbursement rate based on an annual study of fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile each year. Thirty-three states have a reimbursement rate that is the same as the federal rate. For those 17 states whose rates differ from the federal rate, reimbursement rates range from 31 cents to 57 cents per mile.

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Policy Recommendations to Improve Military and Overseas Voting

Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2 p.m. EDT
FREE CSG eCademy Webcast
[REGISTER HERE](#)

Update on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act

Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2 p.m. EDT
Presented by CSG South/SLC
[REGISTER HERE](#)

Pricing Rooftop Solar: Sustainability, Fairness & Promoting Productivity

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2 p.m. EDT
FREE CSG eCademy Webcast
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States Eye the Fall and 2016 for Transportation Revenue Measures

With summer drawing to a close, it's time to check in once again on what states are up to on the transportation funding front. The number of states to increase their gas taxes this year now stands at seven with the addition of Washington state last month. Other states could be poised to join their ranks in the months ahead.

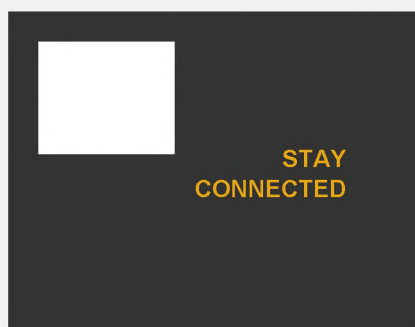
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New York State Sen. Hugh Farley Receives 2015 W. Paul White Award

Sen. Hugh Farley, vice president pro tempore of the New York State Senate, received the W. Paul White Regional Leadership Award during CSG's Eastern Regional Conference 55th Annual Meeting and Regional Policy Forum Aug. 16-19 in Wilmington, Del. The ERC's W. Paul White Award is given annually to a legislator who has made lasting contributions in public service for his or her state. Farley served as chair of CSG's Eastern Regional Conference in 1983. In 1987, he served as CSG national chair.

Founded in 1933, The Council of State Governments is our nation's only organization serving all three branches of state government. CSG is a region-based forum that fosters the exchange of insights and ideas to help state officials shape public policy. This offers unparalleled regional, national and international opportunities to network, develop leaders, collaborate and create problem-solving partnerships.

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