

**From:** The Council of State Governments <data@csg.org>  
**To:** Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov  
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**Subject:** The Current State: Veterans in College; Immigration Gridlock; Transportation Funding

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**Issue: 5**

**February 23, 2015**

### **Postsecondary Institutions Give Credit to Veterans for Prior Learning**

Service members bring a unique military experience with them into the classroom. Many postsecondary institutions are working to ensure they get credit for that life experience to help them attain a college degree faster. That, they say, can help keep veterans in the classroom, as well as ease their transition back to civilian life.

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### **Key State Leadership is about Focus**

Key state leadership is about focus-taking away partisanship and getting to the heart of the problem. Former U.S. Sen. George Voinovich of Ohio, who also served as a state legislator, mayor and governor, once said he had struggled to try and determine how one could distinguish between a Republican versus a Democratic pothole. His view was always to try and understand the problem, what it would take to fix it, and who could help him fix it.

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### **Immigration Gridlock in Washington: What's Next?**

The battle in Congress over funding for the Department for Homeland Security could impact key personnel and resources in the states. Also impacting immigration-a lawsuit filed by 26 governors and attorneys general challenging President Obama's executive order related to immigration.

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### **Transportation Funding Likely to Top Legislators' Action Lists**

Statehouse watchers think this legislative session is going to be a big one on the transportation funding front. Several speakers participating in a CSG eCademy session, "**States to Watch in 2015: Transportation Funding**," said state leaders began to understand after the passage of MAP-21, the federal transportation funding program passed in 2012, that states will have to address transportation funding themselves.

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### **E-Cigarettes: Regulation and Taxation**

Since the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has not issued final regulations on e-cigarettes, states and localities are regulating the new product. So far, two states tax e-cigarettes, three states include e-cigarettes in a statewide smoking ban and 41 states ban the sale of e-cigarettes to minors.

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### **Wyoming Votes Down a Medicaid Expansion**

Wyoming senators rejected Medicaid expansion in early February, prompting state Rep. Elaine Harvey to pull her bill in the House. Gov. Matt Mead said afterward the state should continue to look at how to help Wyoming's working poor obtain health care.

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### **Insourcing: Workforce Expansion in the States**

Insourcing is a practice that reverses the trend of multinational corporations operating overseas. Businesses increasingly are choosing to relocate to the United States, and in some cases, foreign-owned corporations are employing American workers for the first time. Insourcing saves and creates jobs, and state policy can play a pivotal role in affecting businesses' decisions to locate stateside.

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### **Adkins Speaks at NASS Conference**

CSG Executive Director David Adkins was recently featured on the National Association of Secretaries of States Winter Conference's State of the States panel in Washington, D. C. Others on the panel were Jim McPherson, executive director of the National Association of Attorneys General; Neal Osten, Washington, D.C., office director for the National Conference of State Legislatures; Lou Jacobson, panel moderator, deputy editor for PolitiFact and state politics columnist for Governing; and Louisiana Secretary of State Tom Schedler.

### **CSG's 2015 Henry Toll Fellowship Program**

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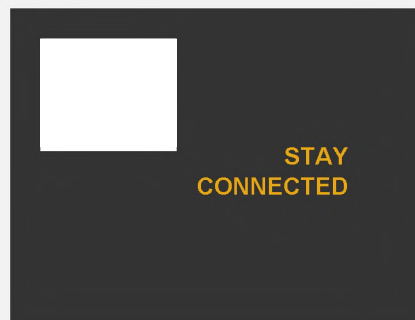
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