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Subject: History Lessons; Growing Innovation; Civics Education; Employing Offenders; Feeding the Hungry

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Author Hampton Sides Offers Keys to Surviving Ordeals

Best-selling author Hampton Sides called the 1879 voyage of the USS Jeannette, and the hardships of the men who aspired to reach the North Pole, one of the greatest survival stories of all time. Yet the story--now detailed in his most recent book, *In the Kingdom of Ice: The Grand and Terrible Polar Voyage of the USS Jeanette*--fell through the cracks of history and was forgotten. Sides was the keynote speaker at the CSG opening session and luncheon on Friday during the 2015 CSG National Conference in Nashville, Tenn.

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Mr. Smith Goes to Nashville

A sense of commitment to both speed and reliability--along with a drive to foster the innovation necessary to maintain it--helped Frederick W. Smith, chairman, president and CEO of FedEx, lead the company to become a global leader in the shipping industry, serving more than 220 countries worldwide with a team of 350,000 employees and a fleet of 95,000 vehicles and 675 aircraft. Smith was the keynote speaker at a Dec. 12 luncheon at the 2015 CSG National Conference in Nashville, Tenn. He believes state leaders could play a key role in helping businesses like his continue to foster innovation and build stronger economies.

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Civics Education Vital to Effective Democracy

Civics education is the first step toward creating engaged citizens and effective public leaders for the future. Experts and policymakers gathered at the Civics Education in the States session sponsored by the CSG Federalism Task Force Dec. 12 during the 2015 CSG National Conference in Nashville, Tenn., to discuss how states are, and are not, teaching future generations about how the government works and the roles and powers of state and federal governments.

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The Causes, Costs & Consequences of Bad Data

Data is essential for lawmakers to make evidence-based decisions about how to allocate limited resources--but not all data is created equal. CSG Senior Fellows Katherine Barrett and Richard Greene discussed what makes data reliable and what steps can be taken to improve the quality and availability of data at The Causes, Costs and Consequences of Bad Government Data policy workshop Dec. 11 at the CSG National Conference in Nashville, Tenn.

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Improving Employment Outcomes for People with Criminal Records

Life in prison is hard—and it's designed to be that way. But for the 70 million Americans with criminal records living outside prison walls, life in the community also can be pretty tough. In addition to finding stable housing, reuniting with families and addressing substance abuse issues, individuals with criminal records often face serious barriers to finding a job. But according to speakers at the CSG Justice Center session *Need Not Apply?* on Dec. 12, securing a job is one of the most beneficial things an offender can do to increase the likelihood of maintaining a crime-free lifestyle.

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Session Prepares State Leaders for Next Cybersecurity Breach

State leaders must evaluate risks and invest in protecting state government against cyberattacks. That's according to experts who discussed cybersecurity at the 2015 CSG National Conference in Nashville, Tenn., in an attempt to prepare state leaders for the inevitable. During the Cybersecurity and Cyber Breach Notification session on Dec. 12, sponsored by the CSG Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, Doug Robinson, executive director of the National Association of State Chief Information Officers called the threat of a cybersecurity breach "a compelling issue of the day."

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CSG Toll Fellowship Class of 2015 Graduates in Nashville, Tenn.

The Council of State Governments celebrated the Class of 2015 Toll Fellows at a graduation ceremony Dec. 12 during the 2015 CSG National Conference in Nashville, Tenn. Forty-six state leaders representing 33 states and Puerto Rico were members of the Toll Fellows Class of 2015 that graduated at the CSG National Conference. Long-term CSG Associate member Gary Blalack of GlaxoSmithKline was named an honorary Toll Fellow. CSG will celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Toll Fellowship Program in 2016. For more information or to apply to the 2016 Toll Fellowship Program, visit csg.org/TollFellows.

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CSG Packs 31,000 Meals for Food Insecure in Tennessee

Seventeen percent of Tennessee's population is considered food insecure and in need of food assistance. Members of The Council of State Governments gathered at the culmination of the 2015 CSG National Conference Dec. 13 in Nashville, Tenn. to help address the need in the Volunteer State as part of the CSG Campaign Against Hunger initiative. Outreach Inc., in conjunction with the CSG State Pathways to Prosperity initiative, organized attendees to package 31,000 meals for the hungry in central Tennessee.

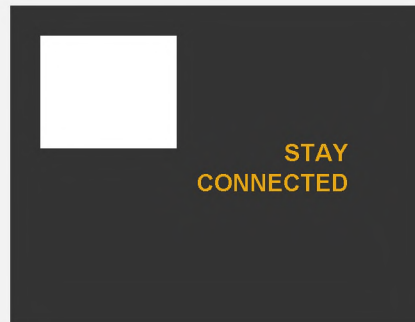
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**Teacher Shortages-Midwest States'
Approaches to Address the Challenge**
Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2 p.m. CST
Presented by CSG Midwest/MLC Education
Committee
REGISTER HERE

See Full Calendar

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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