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Leadership, Federal Uncertainty Key To Transportation Funding Success

Iowa lawmakers this February passed the first gas tax increase in the state in more than 25 years, something that had eluded them in recent legislative sessions. Iowa is one of five states where the legislature has approved a major transportation funding package so far this year.

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When People Become Businesses

What happens when a person becomes a business? It creates a sharing economy and a need for focus from policymakers to address a changing business landscape.

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Trade Directors Share Best Practices on Exports, Foreign Investment

As the federal government focuses on negotiating large free trade agreements on the international front, state trade offices are well positioned to help small businesses navigate the export process here at home. And the State International Development Organizations, a CSG affiliate program, is helping states do this even better.

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Cooperation, not Punishment, Key to Preserving Species

Brian Seasholes doesn't think the Endangered Species Act does a very good job of protecting the at-risk species it was designed to preserve. Seasholes, a research fellow at the Reason Foundation whose work focuses on wildlife and land-use issues, was the featured speaker at a recent CSG eCademy session, "Bringing a Collaborative Approach to the Endangered Species Act."

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When Did the Hourly Minimum Wage Rise?

The federal minimum wage has increased 29 times since 1938. Some states have raised their rates often above the federal rate, while others have kept wages at or below the federal rate.

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Financial Services Institute Promotes Financial Literacy

April is Financial Literacy Month. On Friday, April 24, Financial Services Institute—a CSG Associate member—is sponsoring Financial Literacy Day on Capitol Hill.

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Trends in State Government Employment

At its peak in August 2008, state government employment stood at 5.21 million, or about 3.8 percent of total nonfarm employment. As of December 2014, state governments had regained 53,000 positions since hitting a July 2013 low in employment, but have only recovered a little more than one-quarter of the positions lost since the August 2008 peak.

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Status of Federal Transportation Programs, State Impacts & Activities

FREE CSG eCademy Webcast
Tuesday, April 21, 2 p.m. EDT

REGISTER HERE

America's Knowledge Economy: A State-by-State Review

FREE CSG eCademy Webcast
Tuesday, May 5, 2 p.m. EDT

REGISTER HERE

See Full Calendar

Is \$67M for Navigator Grants a Sign of Confidence on *King v. Burwell*?

Last week, the federal government announced that it would be taking grant applications for \$67 million for navigators to link consumers to federally facilitated and state-based health insurance exchanges. Is this a sign of the administration's confidence that the Supreme Court will find in their favor in the *King v. Burwell* case?

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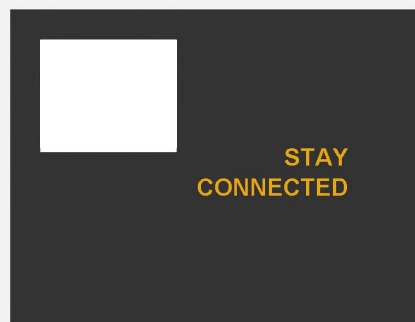
Toll Fellowship Deadline Extension

Time is ticking, but you still have time to submit your application for one of the nation's premier leadership development programs! The deadline for submitting applications for the 2015 Toll Fellowship Program has been extended to May 1.

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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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