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**To:** Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov  
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**Subject:** Honoring King; the Skills Gap; State of the Union; E-cigarettes; Every Student Succeeds Act

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**Issue: 45**

**January 18, 2016**

### **Honoring King's Legacy Across the States**

Civic leaders across the country have organized Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebrations--from marches to musical performances--to recognize the civil rights activist today, the third Monday in January. Each celebration is different. Similarly, each state can tell a different story about the origins of the holiday.

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### **LEAPing the Skills Gap**

Closing the skills gap has become almost cliché, but a few short years ago that was not the case. The United States was caught flat-footed by the reshoring of advanced manufacturing in America. The "train and pray" education and employment policies and practices of the past--go to college, get a degree, graduate and hope to find a job--were no longer adequate to meet the demand for a skilled workforce.

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### **Calling for Bipartisanship--President Obama's Final State of the Union Speech**

On Jan. 12, President Obama delivered his last State of the Union address. Expressing a hopeful tone, the president urged Americans and those in Congress to tone down the growing rancor and suspicion between Republicans and Democrats in order to strive for a brighter future.

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### **Managing Solid Waste through Product Stewardship Laws**

Product stewardship laws have a goal of reducing the environmental, safety and health impacts of consumer products. Originally focused on batteries, these laws are being applied to more consumer products and states are structuring them in different ways. Tune in Tuesday, Feb. 2, at 2 p.m. EST for a CSG eCademy webcast featuring Chaz Miller of the National Waste and Recycling Association, who will provide an overview of product stewardship laws in the states and discuss emerging issues and trends.

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### **E-cigarette Use Among High School Students Nearly Triples from 2013-14**

According to the 2014 National Youth Tobacco Survey from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Tobacco Products, current e-cigarette use (defined as use on at least one day in the past 30 days) among high school students jumped from 4.5 percent (660,000) in 2013 to 13.4 percent (2 million) in 2014. Among middle schoolers, use tripled from 2013-14: from 1.1 percent in 2013 to 3.9 percent in 2014.

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### **States Look Beyond Borders to Grow Economies, Ensure Security**

As the world becomes more interconnected, state leaders continue to play a larger role in international affairs--both by identifying opportunities to grow their economy through international trade and monitoring the geopolitics to ensure the health and safety of their citizens. CSG Director of Federal Affairs Andy Karellas outlines the top five issues in international policy for 2016.

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### **Expect Slow Transition to the Every Student Succeeds Act**

The Every Student Succeeds Act, or ESSA, which reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and replaces the No Child Left Behind Act, or NCLB, is the product of bipartisan efforts in Congress to give states greater control of accountability and academic standards. State officials are closely watching as the U.S. Department of Education releases more information on what the new act changes in accountability system requirements and funding mechanisms, but the transition may not mean immediate changes for states.

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### **SSL Committee Accepting Legislation**

The Council of State Governments' Shared State Legislation, or SSL, Committee--formerly known as the Suggested State Legislation Committee--is now accepting legislation to be considered at its next meeting in Lexington, Ky., in May. To be considered, legislation must have been enacted in at least one state and address a current state issue of national or regional significance; provide a benefit to bill drafters; and provide clear, innovative and practical structure and approach. To submit a bill for consideration, please send the relevant information to [ssl@csg.org](mailto:ssl@csg.org) by March 18.

### **Produced Water Reuse and Recycling: Challenges and Opportunities**

Thursday, Jan. 28, 3 p.m. EST  
Presented by CSG South/Southern  
Legislative Conference

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**Managing Solid Waste through Product Stewardship Laws**

Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2 p.m. EST  
FREE CSG eCademy Webcast  
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**States to Watch in 2016: Transportation Funding**

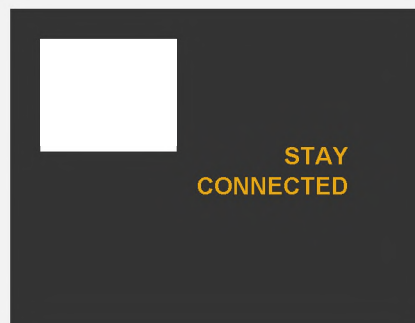
Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2 p.m. EST  
FREE CSG eCademy Webcast  
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**See Full Calendar**

policy. This offers unparalleled regional, national and international opportunities to network, develop leaders, collaborate and create problem-solving partnerships.

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