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Subject: SPECIAL ISSUE: CSG 2015 National Conference Preview, Nashville

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Public Pensions Still a Priority

A July 2015 report by The Pew Charitable Trusts found that pension debt is expected to remain at "historically high levels" as a percentage of U.S. gross domestic product—more than \$1 trillion when state and local shortfalls are combined. To help state leaders better understand how their fellow policymakers are tackling pension concerns, CSG will host a **public pension and retirement security policy academy** on Thursday, Dec. 10, in conjunction with the 2015 National Conference in Nashville, Tenn.

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Mastering the Global Meet and Greet

The work of state government officials today often stretches beyond national borders. Having won the trust and support of constituents at home, policymakers often must take time to improve global communication skills to become more competent at building cross-cultural relationships. At the **Found in Translation** session Friday, Dec. 11, at the 2015 National Conference in Nashville, Tenn., attendees will learn key strategies for building stronger relationships with counterparts overseas.

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America's Knowledge Economy

Research institutions are a key ingredient to innovation and long-term economic growth, and the U.S. has a long history of being a global leader. Understanding a state's comparative research strengths is critical

Innovative Programs Prepare Workers for High-Demand Jobs

Aligning jobs with workers who possess the skills to succeed is a challenge that calls for solutions from K-12 and postsecondary systems and employers. Tom Plath, vice president of human resources for International Paper, said partnerships between the private sector and state governments could help prepare students for high-demand jobs. Plath will speak at the **Career Pathways Policy Academy**, Dec. 10, in Nashville, Tenn.

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Federalism and the U.S. Judicial System

The American judicial system is complicated. In this free CSG eCademy webcast Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 2 p.m. EST, Lisa Soronen, executive director of the State and Local Legal Center, and Paul Clement, former U.S. solicitor general who has argued more than 75 cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, will explain the basics of how our court system works. The webcast serves as a prelude to the

Civics Education in the States session at 10 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 12, at the CSG 2015 National Conference.

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Higher Education R&D Spending Trends

Higher education R&D spending is funded by a variety of sources, the largest of which is the federal government, which funded 59 percent of spending in 2013, followed by

when adopting a comprehensive workforce and economic development strategy, but identifying those strengths can be difficult. An Innovation Classroom session, **The Knowledge Economy**, will shed light on how states can identify and maximize their research strengths to foster economic growth.

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institutions, which provided 22 percent of total R&D spending. State and local government funding made up 5.5 percent of total R&D spending. During **The Triple Helix** session in Nashville, experts from government, academia and the private sector will discuss how best to collaborate in developing a long-term strategy to grow the economy.

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Submit Policy Resolutions for National Conference Now

The deadline for submitting national policy resolutions for the 2015 CSG National Conference in Nashville is Nov. 19. Committees will be notified about submitted resolutions by Nov. 25, two weeks before the conference kicks off on Dec. 10. More information and guidelines for submitting CSG national policy resolutions are available on CSG's website. For more information about current CSG national policy resolutions, visit the CSG Knowledge Center.

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2760 Research Park Drive
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EPA's Clean Power Plan and Interstate Trading Options

Tuesday, Oct. 27, 1:30 p.m. EDT
FREE CSG eCademy Webcast
[REGISTER HERE](#)

Insurance Regulation & Legislation

Thursday, Oct. 29, 2 p.m. EDT
Free CSG eCademy Series in Partnership with the Griffith Foundation
[REGISTER HERE](#)

Rideshare Companies: 2015 State Legislation and What's Ahead for 2016

Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2 p.m. EST
FREE CSG eCademy Webcast
Presented with the Griffith Insurance Education Foundation
[REGISTER HERE](#)

Federalism and the U.S. Judicial Branch

Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2 p.m. EST
FREE CSG eCademy Webcast
[REGISTER HERE](#)

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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