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Experts Discuss Trends and Challenges in Civic Education

In a recent CSG eCademy webinar, "Civics in the States: What It Is and Why It Is Needed," experts discussed trends in civic education and the challenges states and schools face in improving civic education and civic engagement among students. Richard Greene, a CSG senior fellow and co-author of CSG's report, "Civic Education: A Key to Trust in Government," moderated the discussion. "Over the course of time, civic education has taken a backseat in public schools and universities alike, and it's an open question as to how people can possibly be expected to trust an entity that they simply don't understand," Greene said.

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States at Work to Expand Apprenticeships

State leaders are focused on skill development and apprenticeships as the way forward in increasing labor participation and attracting mid- and high-wage jobs to their states. As states and businesses continue to recover from the Great Recession, both are attempting to do so in a new environment. The 21st century has seen two historic shifts related to economics and workforce development. The first is the return of manufacturing jobs to the U.S. and the second is the new technological requirements of these jobs.

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Congress Looks to Overturn ESSA Accountability Regulations

The U.S. Senate passed a joint resolution on March 9 eliminating federal accountability standards introduced under the Every Student Succeeds Act, or ESSA. Joint Resolution 57 would rescind the U.S. Department of Education's Accountability and State Plans Rule, which set guidelines for how states must implement their accountability systems based on factors such as school quality ratings and student success. On March 13, the Department of Education issued a new consolidated template for state ESSA implementation plans in an effort to provide clarity on proceeding with ESSA implementation.

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The State of Transportation Performance Management

Congress approved legislation in 2012 known as Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century, or MAP-21, that not only provided two years of funding for transportation programs and a variety of policy changes after nearly three years of short-term extensions but also set in motion a process that continues today, even after minor tweaks were made in 2015's five-year Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act. States and planning organizations have been working with the Federal Highway Administration to implement a performance-based approach to the federal highway program.

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Legislative Salaries in 2016

When it comes to comparing state legislative salaries, there are lots of caveats. In 2016, seven states paid legislators a per diem salary rather than an annual salary. Thirty-eight states paid their legislators an annual salary, with a huge range. In Texas, legislators were paid \$7,200 per year while in California lawmakers earned \$100,113. The average annual salary for these 38 states was \$37,447. This infographic provides a 50-state look at legislative salaries in 2016.

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CBO: \$880 Billion for Medicaid Lost in Next Decade

The Congressional Budget Office, or CBO, recently released its cost estimate for the House Republican plan to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. The report says the federal deficit would be reduced by \$337 billion over the next decade. CSG found that the loss to states--calculated by using each state's share of fiscal year 2015 federal Medicaid spending to determine that state's share of the \$880 billion cut--varies from a high of \$141 billion in California to nearly

\$800 million in Wyoming.

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Report Card for America's Infrastructure 2017

Every four years, the American Society of Civil Engineers releases the Report Card for America's Infrastructure, which details the condition and performance of 16 categories of infrastructure and assigns a letter grade to each. During this FREE CSG eCademy webinar at 2 p.m. EDT on Tuesday, April 4, ASCE officials will talk about what the 2017 report says and the resources available to policymakers who may want to explore their states' infrastructure needs as they consider funding and policy options this year.

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State Solutions to the Opioid Epidemic

Tuesday, March 21, 2 p.m. EDT
FREE CSG eCademy webinar
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Report Card for America's Infrastructure 2017

Tuesday, April 4, 2 p.m. EDT
FREE CSG eCademy webinar
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Attracting Investment into States

Tuesday, April 11, 2 p.m. EDT
FREE CSG eCademy webinar
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The Legal Landscape of Public Employee Pension Reform

Tuesday, April 18, 2 p.m. EDT

Henry Toll Fellowship Application Deadline Approaching

The deadline for applying to be a part of the CSG Henry Toll Fellows Class of 2017 is midnight PDT on April 23, 2017. The 2017 CSG Toll Fellowship will host 48 emerging state leaders from across the country Aug. 25-30 in Lexington, Kentucky, for an intensive leadership development program designed to stimulate personal assessment and growth, while providing priceless networking and relationship-building opportunities. Visit the CSG website for more information and to apply.

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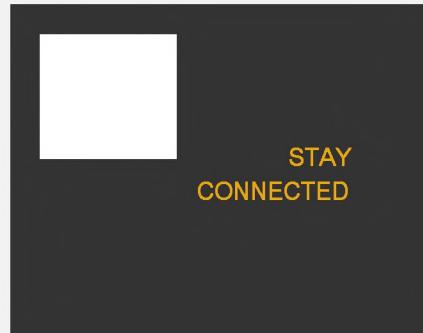
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**Workforce Development: How States are
Innovating with WIOA**
Tuesday, May 9, 2 p.m. EDT
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