

STATE OF THE FUTURE

Mapping a regional path forward



60th Annual Meeting and Regional Policy Forum





60th Annual Meeting & Regional Policy Forum

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Welcome from the 2021 Chair

The Honourable Ted Arnott

Dear Colleagues,

As CSG East's 2021 chair, it is my pleasure to welcome you to our 60th Annual Meeting and Regional Policy Forum. We have planned a thought-provoking program of informative sessions on pertinent issues, with prominent and knowledgeable speakers. While we may be temporarily apart, we know the Eastern region is committed as ever to the collegial exchange of information and ideas, as we help create innovative solutions to our common concerns. On behalf of CSG East's Executive Committee, thank you for joining us!

The Honourable Ted Arnott

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

About Us

The Council of State Governments (CSG) and the CSG Eastern Regional Conference (CSG East)

CSG Mission

The Council of State Governments (CSG) is the nation's only regionally based, multibranch organization serving all 50 states and commonwealths, as well as U.S. territories. Since CSG's creation in 1933, state officials have turned to the organization as an impartial source of information to help them meet the challenge of governing. As a national organization representing all three branches of state government, CSG is uniquely suited to identify innovative approaches to common problems facing states.

CSG East

The CSG Eastern Regional Conference office, located in New York City since 1937, serves legislative, executive, and judicial branch officials from the 11 eastern states from Maine to Maryland, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the eastern Canadian provinces of Québec, New Brunswick, Ontario, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. CSG East educates policymakers about issues of concern to the region, encourages multistate problem-solving and partnerships, and promotes regional interests at the federal level.

The Annual Meeting & Regional Policy Forum

The CSG East Annual Meeting & Regional Policy Forum brings together policymakers from all branches of government from CSG East's member jurisdictions with experts from the private sector and academia to address a range of critical public policy issues facing the region. This unique event enables attendees to share ideas and network and serves as a vehicle for enhanced regional cooperation and communication.

Meeting Evaluation

We need your feedback! Please take a few minutes to complete the Annual Meeting Evaluation Form. This short form can be found on the annual meeting website. Thank you for taking the time to give us your comments and suggestions, all of which help us to do a better job serving you!

MONDAY August 16

8:45 - 9:30 a.m.
Budget Committee Meeting
For Members of Budget Committee Only

9:30 - 10:00 a.m. Break

10 – 11 a.m.Annual Meeting
Committee Meeting

11 - 11:30 a.m. Break

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Strategic Planning Committee Meeting

12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Break

1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Executive Committee Meeting



TUESDAY August 17

8:00 - 9:45 a.m.

Agriculture and Rural Development Committee Meeting Please note this session begins early.

Roundtable Discussion and Washington Update

State and province-level review of important legislation or initiatives affecting rural and agricultural communities in the region, to be followed by an update on the latest initiatives in Washington, D.C. that could have an impact on the Northeast.

PRESIDING:

Senator Judy Schwank, Pennsylvania **Representative Carolyn Partridge**, Vermont Co-Chairs, CSG East Agriculture and Rural Development Committee

8:30 - 9:45 a.m.

Health Committee Meeting

Please note this session begins 30 minutes after Agriculture and Rural Development

Roundtable updates from member states and provinces.

Discussion of state-level efforts — both individual and collaborative — addressing issues such as public health, health equity, healthcare infrastructure, access, quality, and costs of healthcare.

PRESIDING:

Senator Gustavo Rivera, New York Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health; Chair, CSG East Health Committee

9:45 - 10:15 a.m. Break

10:05 - 11:30 a.m.

Council on Communities of Color Meeting

Race in the State House: Opposing Critical Race Theory. Unpacking the debate around teaching African American history, the legacy of slavery, and racial equity in publicly funded schools

This session will be broadcast live on WURD Radio's **Reality Check** — please note the start time and join early!

Critical Race Theory has become the new flash point for discussions around African American history, the legacy of slavery, Reconstruction, Jim Crow, racial justice, and equity in publicly funded schools and in state legislatures across the nation. According to *Chalkbeat*, there are "efforts in 27 states to restrict education on racism, bias, the contributions of specific racial or ethnic groups to U.S. history, or related topics."

In this session, state policymakers, scholars, and education thought leaders will unpack, examine, and discuss the underlying issues in the debate over critical race theory and the burgeoning campaign to keep it out of publicly funded classrooms. Panelists will also consider the impacts of ongoing racial justice movements and offer a framework for understanding and teaching the role of racism in current public policy.

MODERATOR:

Charles D. Ellison, Executive Producer and host of *Reality Check* on WURD, and CSG East Senior Fellow

PANELISTS:

Representative Donna Bullock, Pennsylvania **Kevin Ahmaad Jenkins**, Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania

Michael Coard, Attorney, Community Activist and Founding Member of Avenging the Ancestors Coalition (ATAC)

10:15 - 11:30 a.m.

Energy and Environment Committee Meeting

The North American Renewable Integration Study: Opportunities for Achieving a Coordinated, Low-Carbon Grid

The North American electric power system is undergoing significant changes as it integrates increasing quantities of renewable resources, and these changes are expected to accelerate amid ambitious federal, state, local, and corporate decarbonization goals. This session will feature a discussion of recent federal research that analyzed the potential impacts of this transition on costs, reliability, and other factors, and seeks to inform policymakers about opportunities for a coordinated, continental low-carbon grid. Among the findings are that: a) an 80 percent reduction in power-sector emissions can be achieved through multiple pathways; and b) enhanced regional and international electricity trade and transmission expansion could have significant net system benefits.

MODERATORS:

Senator Paul Formica, Connecticut **Senator Marc Pacheco**, Massachusetts Co-Chairs CSG East Energy and Environment Committee

SPEAKER:

Gregory Brinkman, Model Engineering Researcher, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, U.S. Department of Energy

11:30 a.m. – noon Break

Noon - 12:05 p.m.

Welcome

The Honourable Ted Arnott, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, CSG East 2021 Chair

12:05 - 1:30 p.m.

Plenary session

The Great Disruption: Rethinking Energy, Transportation, Food and Agriculture

According to Tony Seba, an author, educator, and Silicon Valley entrepreneur, the 2020s will be the fastest, most disruptive decade in history for energy, transportation, food, agriculture, materials, and information. In this provocative presentation, Seba will discuss how technology disruption and business model innovation is leading to cascading effects across all sectors of the economy, propelling a collapse of the internal combustion engine and the oil industry, and disruption of livestock production and industrial farming, with dramatic implications for geopolitics, the environment, and humanity. Seba will also address choices that can help lead to a more equitable, healthy, resilient, and stable society.

SPEAKER:

Tony Seba, Author, Educator, Co-Founder RethinkX

MODERATOR:

Senator Marc R. Pacheco, Massachusetts



1:30 – 2 p.m. Break

2 - 3 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

Apprenticeships: A Pathway to Licensure

Apprenticeships facilitate on-the-job training for future practitioners of a trade or profession and can lower barriers to occupational licensure for disproportionately affected populations by providing opportunities to attain experience and education required for licensure. These "earn while you learn" programs have historically been utilized in skilled trades but are becoming more available for in-demand fields like tech, health-care, and education.

Several states, including Maine and Vermont, have begun promoting apprenticeship programs for professions with workforce shortages and offering tax incentives to employers who hire apprentices. In this webinar, we will discuss how apprenticeships can aid in workforce development and occupational licensure, as well as how states in the East are developing apprenticeship programs using lessons learned in the US and abroad.

SPEAKERS:

Senator Alison Clarkson, Senate Majority Leader, Vermont

Joan Dolan, Director of Apprenticeship & Strategic Partnerships at Maine Department of Labor Nirav Shah, Vice President, Social Finance Korey Johnson, Senior Policy Analyst, CSG Justice Center

Public Access in Peril

Many Public, Educational, and Governmental (PEG) centers across the Northeast are experienc-ing significant budget shortfalls with no relief in sight. Their services are critical for airing local government proceedings, town hall meetings, etc., yet cable companies are eschewing any efforts to pay for continuing free-to-air access for this kind of programming. A panel of industry experts and state officials will discuss how states in the Eastern Region are working to ensure the continuity of public access to state and local news.

MODERATOR:

Lonnie Reed, Chair, Connecticut Green Bank **SPEAKERS:**

Lauren-Glenn Davitian, Executive Director, CCTV
Center for Media & Democracy, Vermont
Walter Mann, Co-Chair of CT Community Media
Association, Connecticut
Mike Pisneli, News Veises Director, Free Press

Mike Rispoli, News Voices Director, Free Press and board member, the Civic Information Consortium, New Jersey

David Gauthier, Executive Director, Winchester Community Access & Media, Massachusetts



WEDNESDAY
August 18

8:30 - 9:45 a.m.

Military and Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting

Roundtable Discussion

This session will focus on the work of our members in assisting military veterans and their families throughout the region and will develop priorities for the region as states slowly recover from the pandemic. Speakers will provide a recap of the legislative efforts spearheaded by the Defense-State

Liaison Office and discuss possible takeaways for the region from a housing resolution developed by Maine's Veterans Services Office.

SPEAKERS:

Christopher R. Arnold, Northeast Regional Liaison, Defense-State Liaison Office, Department of Defense

Representative Allison Hepler, Maine **Marge Kilkelly**, Policy Program Manager, Maine Primary Care Association

Transportation Committee Meeting

Funding and Financing for Transportation

Roundtable updates from member states and provinces. Discussions on the status of Federal Surface Transportation Authorization, and the National Infrastructure Bank Proposal.

PRESIDING:

Representative Patrick Brennan, Vermont, Chair, CSG East Transportation Committee

SPEAKERS:

Tanya Snyder, POLITICO **Senator Lou DiPalma**, Rhode Island, Vice Chair, CSG East Transportation Committee

9:45 - 10:15 a.m. Break

10:05 - 11:30 a.m.

Council on Communities of Color Meeting

Reparations: What Would That Look Like? Exploring a Justice Strategy and Policy Framework Part II

This session will be broadcast live on WURD Radio's **Reality Check** – please note the start time and join early!

Fueled by persisting inequities in racial health, wealth, and education gaps, discussions on reparations are once again at the forefront of public debates in federal, state, and local government. Additionally, there are growing calls for meaningful dialogue and recompense for descendants of slavery with renewed interest in urging Congress to pass H.R. 40 (to establish a Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans). Several states within CSG's eastern region have considered reparations legislation during the past legislative session, but most efforts were stalled by the fundamental question of implementation.

This session is part II of the **Reparations Movement Summit** held in June by CSG East CCC.

PANELISTS:

Representative Chris Rabb, Pennsylvania **Honorable Michael B. Hancock**, Mayor, Denver Colorado

Jessica Ann Mitchell Aiwuyor, Founder, National Black Cultural Information Trust Mike Green, Co-Founder and Chief Strategist, National Institute for Inclusive Competitiveness

10:15 - 11:30 a.m.

Canada-U.S. Relations Committee Meeting

Changing Times? The Canada-U.S. Relationship in the Biden Administration

What is the status of the bilateral Canada-U.S. relationship today? The Biden administration is slowly doing an about-face on many domestic and foreign policies from the previous administration. The closure of the border for more than 17 months has not helped things, and citizens of each country are eager to visit the other. What should we expect to see? How will the recent opening of the border on the Canadian side proceed? When will the United States open its border? Can we expect to return to the status quo ante? The committee will hear from two keen observers of Canada-U.S. relations, and then from stakeholder committee members.

PRESIDING:

Assemblymember Billy Jones, New York
Member of the National Assembly
Guy Ouellette, Québec
Co-chairs, Canada-U.S. Relations Committee

SPEAKERS:

Andy Blatchford, POLITICO **Edward Alden**, Council on Foreign Relations

11:30 a.m. – noon Break

Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Plenary session

State Recovery: How States Are Spending Federal Rescue Dollars

State governments have received an unprecedented amount of federal funding to support recovery and respond to the coronavirus pandemic. The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, a \$1.9 trillion economic relief package, was signed by President Joe Biden on March 11. States may also be receiving additional funding from the proposed infrastructure bill and the opioid settlement recently endorsed by state attorneys general. This program will highlight the federal funding available to states and opportunities to leverage these funds for immediate state economic and fiscal recovery needs and long-term investments in state infra-

structure and services. The session will provide an opportunity for state leaders to discuss and learn from each other about the processes they are using to make allocation decisions and how they are utilizing these funds for state recovery.

SPEAKER:

Christina Gordley, Senior Policy Analyst, The Council of State Governments

PANELISTS

Senator Cathy Breen, Maine, Chair, Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee

Honorable David R. Brinkley, Secretary of Budget and Management, Maryland

Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Massachusetts

1:30 – 2 p.m. Break



2 - 3 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

Developing a Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) Project in the New York City Watershed Region to Promote Carbon Farming, Soil Health, and Water Quality

In this interactive session, presenters will discuss the development of an innovative agriculture carbon pilot in the New York State counties that comprise the New York City Watershed. The pilot, which is still in the concept stage, seeks to overcome existing hurdles in current carbon farming efforts by making them more economically sustainable, providing greater scientific accuracy about sequestration potential, and tailoring these practices to the needs of the small-to-midsized farms that dominate Northeastern agriculture. The project will partner with a worldwide community of experts, led by Columbia University, which is advancing methodologies for improving measurements of carbon sequestration in agriculture. Presenters will invite feedback from CSG East members on how this proposed project can enhance their policy efforts to promote carbon sequestration in their states and provinces.

MODERATOR:

Representative Carolyn Partridge, Vermont

SPEAKERS:

Jeffrey Potent, Adjunct Professor of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University
Dr. Cynthia Rosenzweig, Senior Research
Scientist, NASA Goddard Institute for Space
Studies, Columbia University Earth Institute

Center for Climate Systems Research

Age-Friendly States: Improving Health and Well-Being for Older Adults

Our state populations are getting older. According to some rankings, the CSG Eastern region has 10 of the 12 oldest jurisdictions in the United States. Most people aged 50 and older wish to remain where they now live, and communities will need to become more "age friendly" to serve this growing population. This session will provide an opportunity to explore what several states, provinces, and territories have done to make housing, transportation, technology, and health care more age friendly.

MODERATOR:

Senator Gustavo Rivera, New York, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health; Chair, CSG East Health Committee

SPEAKERS:

Terry Fulmer, PhD, RN, FAAN, President and CEO of the Hartford Foundation

Mathew Varsava, Director of Policy, Ontario Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility

Kimberly Causey-Gomez, MSW, Commissioner, Department of Human Services, U.S. Virgin Islands **Senator Rachel May**, New York, Chair of the Senate Committee on Aging and Chair of Legislative Commission on Rural Resources

3:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Nominations Committee Meeting

THURSDAY August 19

8:00 - 9:45 a.m.

Agriculture and Rural Development Committee Meeting

Please note this session begins early.

Broadband Mapping: Charting the Digital Divide

Lack of rural broadband access has been a problem for years, and one that has been intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic. Cities, states, and the federal government are scrambling to find ways to bridge the connectivity gap to underserved populations quickly and efficiently. This session will feature experts in the field who will discuss new initiatives and protocols to ensure that connection can finally become a reality for all.

PRESIDING:

Senator Judy Schwank, Pennsylvania **Representative Carolyn Partridge**, Vermont Co-Chairs, CSG East Agriculture and Rural Development Committee

SPEAKERS:

J. Brent Legg, Executive Vice President,
Government Affairs, Connected Nation
Peggy Schaffer, Executive Director,
ConnectMaine Authority
Kirk Burgee, Associate Bureau Chief and Chief
of Staff, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal
Communications Commission

8:30 - 9:45 a.m.

Territorial Relations Committee Meeting

Please note this session begins 30 minutes after Agriculture and Rural Development

Creating a Resilient and Sustainable Future

Prior to Hurricanes Maria and Irma in 2017, both Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands relied on the mainland for much of their agricultural and energy imports, both of which increased drastically following the hurricanes and exposed an opportunity to reduce this dependence.

This session will explore renewable energy and agricultural production targets, policies, and programs that are in place to help both island jurisdictions create a stronger, more sustainable, more resilient future.

SPEAKERS:

Stafford Crossman M.A., Associate Director of Cooperative Extension Services and Assistant Director of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Extension Assistant Professor, University of the Virgin Islands

Luis Martinez, Puerto Rico, Director, Southeast Energy, Climate & Clean Energy Program, National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) **Carlos Flores**, Former Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Puerto Rico

9:45 - 10:15 a.m. Break

10:15 - 11:30 a.m. Health Committee Meeting

Coping with the Stresses and Traumas of Public Service

Although never an easy job, the pandemic has exacerbated the stresses and traumas associated with the roles of elected and appointed officials and staff. This session will explore secondary trauma and stressors, effects of trauma and stress, strategies to minimize stress and build resilience, and identify additional strategies and resources.

SPEAKER:

Rosemary Lavinski, LCSW, CEAP, Employee Assistance Consultant and Executive Coach, private practice

Education Committee Meeting

The Education Committee will discuss their priorities for the coming year. Additionally, the committee will hear from subject matter experts from City Health, and the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification to learn about ongoing trends in Universal Pre-K, and about the interstate compacts project through the U.S. Department of Defense.

PRESIDING:

Senator Ernie Lopez, Delaware, Chair, CSG East Education Committee

SPEAKERS:

Philip Rogers, Executive Director, National Association of Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC)

Matt Shafer, The Council of State Governments **Akeem Anderson**, Government Relations Director, CityHealth



11:30 a.m. – noon Break

Noon – 1:30 p.m. Plenary session

What Racism Costs Everyone

Heather McGhee's specialty is the American economy — and the mystery of why it so often fails the American public. From the financial crisis to rising student debt to collapsing public infrastructure, she found a common root problem: racism. But not just in the most obvious indignities for people of color. Racism has costs for white people, too. It is the common denominator of our most vexing public problems, the core dysfunction of our democracy and constitutive of the spiritual and moral crises that grip us all. But how did this happen? And is there a way out?

Best-selling author and economist Heather Mc-Ghee will discuss these topics and her findings from her book *The Sum of Us: What racism costs everyone and how we can prosper together.*

MODERATOR:

Sheilah Kast, Journalist and host of WYPG's **On the Record**

1:30 – 2 p.m.

Break

2 - 3 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

Untapped Talent: creating economic opportunity for refugee and immigrant professionals

While states face labor shortages across key sectors, an estimated 2 million immigrants and refugees have advanced degrees (263,000 in healthcare alone) that are un- or under-utilized. This panel will discuss barriers to workforce entry faced by refugee and immigrant professionals and recommend policies to remove discriminatory requirements. This panel will identify model state legislation that has successfully included new Americans in workforce development initiatives, facilitated access to professional licensure, and more.

MODERATOR:

Genevieve Kessler, director of state advocacy, International Rescue Committee, and lab state strategy lead, Refugee Advocacy Lab

PANELISTS:

Mike Zimmer, senior policy consultant, World Education Services

Victoria Francis, state advocacy officer, International Rescue Committee

Representative Kristen Cloutier, Maine House of Representatives

Lubab al-Quraishi, Refugee Congress delegate for New Jersey; former assistant professor of medicine, Baghdad Medical College, Iraq

Planning the Future of the Public's Health: It's More Than Pandemics

CSG East member jurisdictions — individually and in partnerships — are well-positioned to assure that state and local health departments have the resources they need to steer their communities towards a healthier future. This session will provide overviews of the Bipartisan Policy Center's work in public health, including highlights from the June 2021 report Positioning America's Public Health System for the Next Pandemic (June 2021) and the proposed work of the recently announced coalition Public Health Forward: Modernizing the U.S. Public Health System. Attendees will explore and discuss public health goals, intergovernmental roles and responsibilities, infrastructures, and public health financing.

SPEAKER:

Anand Parekh, M.D., Ph.D., Chief Medical Advisor at the Bipartisan Policy Center

FRIDAY August 20

10:15 - 11:15 a.m.

Executive Committee Closing Business Meeting

In Memoriam

CSG East mourns the passing of two active members



Senate President Thomas V. "Mike" Miller MARYLAND

Senator Mike Miller was the longest-serving Senate president in Maryland's history, with over 40 years in leadership.

Miller co-chaired the CSG East Annual Meeting in 2014 and was a long-time member of the CSG East Executive, Budget and Annual Meeting Committees. Sen. Miller was a yearly attendee at the CSG East Annual Meeting, and an ardent supporter of the Eastern office and its activities. In 2019, Senator Miller was awarded CSG East's highest honor, the W. Paul White award.



Representative David Danielson NEW HAMPSHIRE

Representative David Danielson was elected to the New Hampshire House of Representatives in 2012, was a member of its

Finance committee, and was a long-time member of CSG East's Agriculture and Rural Development committee. Danielson was also part of the New Hampshire host committee for the CSG East Annual Meeting planned for the summer of 2020.

On behalf of the CSG East Executive Committee, and all of the colleagues at CSG East, we will miss both Senator Miller and Representative Danielson very much.

CSG East mourns the passing of former director Alan V. Sokolow



Former CSG East Director Alan V. Sokolow

For over four decades, the members of the Eastern region benefitted from the wisdom, integrity, and unwavering dedication of Alan V. Sokolow. After

the eastern office and all of its files were lost in the 9/11 terrorist attack, Alan helped shepherd the office through an extensive series of moves before finding a permanent new home in lower Manhattan. He encouraged new ideas and creative problem-solving. "I am your biggest cheerleader," Alan would frequently tell staff – and his supportive leadership helped to shape many innovative projects over the years. Alan played a key role in helping to establish the CSG Justice Center and the Eastern Leadership Academy, and he was the driving force behind the creation of the Black Caucus – now the Council on Communities of Color – and the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators. Together with Wendell Hannaford, who succeeded Alan as CSG East director, Alan invited five Canadian provinces to become international associate members of CSG East.

Alan's respect for CSG members and staff, and his enthusiasm for public policy, were clear to all who had the opportunity to know and work with him. Alan will be missed by many, but his legacy will continue to guide this organization and the many individuals following in his footsteps today.

2021 Sponsors

Thank you to the generous sponsors of the CSG East 60th Annual Meeting and Regional Policy Forum

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CSG National Leadership

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The Robert J. Thompson Eastern Leadership Academy

AUGUST 21 – 25, 2022 | PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

CSG East and the University of Pennsylvania Fels Institute of Government invite you to apply to join the 2022 Robert J. Thompson Eastern Leadership Academy (ELA) class. This unique program will hone your leadership skills with other talented and high-achieving state and provincial officials from CSG's Eastern Regional Conference.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

ELA is specifically designed for legislators, legislative staff, and executive and judicial branch officials, primarily in the early-to-mid stages of their government careers.

The ELA Application Review Committee looks for applicants who demonstrate:

- Leadership potential, including problemsolving and consensus-building skills;
- Dedication to public service; and
- Commitment to improving government institutions and respect for state and provincial government.

HOW TO APPLY

In addition to the application form, each applicant must submit a résumé, a cover letter describing interest in ELA, and a letter of recommendation from a legislative leader or CSG East Executive Committee member.

For more information, visit https://csg-erc.org/leader-ship-training/#eastern-leadership-academy.

ELA's Partner

University Of Pennsylvania's Fels Institute Of Government

The Fels Institute of Government is the University of Pennsylvania's graduate program in public policy and public management. Its personal and practical approach to public management education and its relatively small size make it one of the nation's leading boutique programs in public affairs. The Institute was founded in 1937 by Philadelphia entrepreneur and philanthropist Samuel L. Fels of the Fels Naptha Soap Company in response to a wave of public corruption and mismanagement in Pennsylvania government. Its roots in state government continue today through its partnership with ELA and through other custom-designed executive education programs with state governments and the associations that serve them.





