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The NCSL Foundation for State Legislatures exists to enhance NCSL’s services to strengthen all state legislatures.

The Foundation is sponsored by a distinguished group of leaders who represent the nation’s most prestigious and influential corporations, unions and organizations. None of this strategic work would be possible without the continued support and dedication of the Foundation Board of Directors and our Foundation sponsors. Your generous support has allowed the Foundation to provide $1,180,000 to NCSL for strategic projects and activities, and $367,436 for NCSL Foundation programs. Awards to NCSL for fiscal year 2016 totaled $1,547,438.
The NCSL Foundation for State Legislatures is committed to the important work of strengthening state legislatures, counteracting cynicism and distrust of the legislative process and helping lawmakers confront and solve the critical issues of our time through a public-private dialogue.
DEAR FOUNDATION SPONSORS:

Your support of the NCSL Foundation is crucial for NCSL to accomplish its mission of strengthening state legislatures and the legislative process. Funds from the Foundation help NCSL delve into the broad range of policy issues facing lawmakers and provide professional development opportunities to legislators and legislative staff. This important work would not be possible without your annual support. Thank you.

Awards from the Foundation in fiscal year 2016 allowed NCSL to bolster activities and research initiatives on cybersecurity, criminal justice and law enforcement, marijuana, new and young professionals, policy implications of same sex marriage, and the International Education Study Group. Support for the work of the Center for Ethics in Government and the Women’s Legislative Network continued as well.

Your generosity supported the expansion of NCSL online databases on topics important to legislators and staff such as campaign finance, health innovations, prescription drugs and traffic safety. Support for legislator and legislative staff professional development helped strengthen and support the legislative institution. Support for research on autonomous vehicles, marijuana and unmanned aircraft allowed NCSL to provide timely information to legislators and staff as they developed solutions to myriad complex issues. Webinars on topics such as clean power, GMOs, redistricting, distributed solar energy and bill drafting provided legislators and staff with vital information to support their work. A detailed list of all of the awards your contributions supported are listed in this report.

All of these programs and projects were possible this year because of your generosity. We sincerely thank you for your sponsorship and for directly helping make NCSL the premier bipartisan organization of the 50 states and territories.

Sincerely,

William T. Pound
NCSL Executive Director
DEAR FOUNDATION SPONSORS:

I am pleased to report the NCSL Foundation achieved its fundraising goal for the 16th consecutive year. The Foundation offered a number of opportunities—from the annual Legislative Summit in Seattle to the NCSL Capitol Forum in Washington, D.C.—to network with legislative leaders, legislators and key legislative staff and learn from one another.

The Foundation hosted happy hours, luncheons, receptions and dinners with NCSL Standing Committee members, members of the NCSL Executive Committee, and other key legislators from across the country. We held the annual Foundation President’s dinner at Union Station in conjunction with the 2015 NCSL Capitol Forum. Sponsors dined with NCSL Standing Committee chairs and Executive Committee members. NCSL Executive Director Bill Pound provided a 2016 legislative session overview and a preview of the 2016 Legislative Summit at the annual Foundation luncheon. In June we teamed up with the State Government Affairs Council to discuss programing for the 2016 Legislative Summit with NCSL committee directors. NCSL and the Foundation look forward to offering more opportunities for sponsors to engage with our constituents and suggest subject matter experts to participate on NCSL session panels.

Thank you for helping us reach our ambitious fundraising goal of nearly $2.4 million. The number of platinum sponsorships has remained steady while sponsorship at the gold and silver levels has surged. Overall, sponsorship grew to 194 sponsors including 26 new sponsors joining the Foundation. Seven organizations upgraded their sponsorship levels, including two platinum upgrades. Your generosity allowed the Foundation to award more than $1.5 million to NCSL programs. You provided support for public-private partnerships on retirement security and multi-sector public private partnerships.

I sincerely appreciate your continued support and I’m honored to serve as your president. As you look through this year’s annual report, I encourage you to find ways to participate at the highest possible level, and share feedback on how to serve you better.

Thank you for your commitment to NCSL.

Senator Dan Blue  
Senate Minority Leader, North Carolina  
NCSL Foundation President
Watch the NCSL 2016 overview video for a more in-depth look at how the NCSL Foundation supports the work of NCSL.
Since 1984, the Foundation has transferred and awarded more than $20 million to NCSL.
LEADERS’ SERVICES
$250,000
This award supported the Leaders’ Center, which offers legislative leaders, including future leaders, specialized products and services. These include timely information on public policy and ideas for innovative management. Specifically, the award supported three important seminars designed exclusively for leaders and emerging leaders. Special seminars for legislative leaders and emerging leaders took place in Washington, D.C., in June 2015, in Bentonville, Ark., in October 2015 and in Washington, D.C. in late spring 2016.

CHALLENGE GRANTS
$190,000
This award supported the entrepreneurial spirit of NCSL staff, who are challenged to develop innovative ideas to expand services to support legislators and legislative staff in the 50 states and territories. Strong consideration was given to proposals that not only expanded services but also generated revenue. The NCSL executive director approved a number of challenge grants ranging from bolstering research efforts on autonomous vehicles to redistricting.
WEB DEVELOPMENT
$175,000

The NCSL website is a primary tool for providing information and services to the organization’s members, Foundation sponsors, project funders, the media and the general public. These constituencies expect ongoing improvements as technology changes and they see innovations across the internet. In response to these needs and expectations, several specific development initiatives are being conducted in the coming year. These funds directly supported implementation of these efforts in the overall website.

LEGISLATIVE TRAINING INNOVATIONS
$120,000

State legislators face extraordinary pressures as they develop public policy in a contentious political environment while reducing state budgets to fit shrinking revenues. These conditions underscore the value of strengthening the institution and developing personal and professional skills for legislators and their staffs. The NCSL State Services Division makes such resources and technical assistance available to legislatures. The program is unique in the United States for its long record of collecting data on legislatures, their members and their staffs. The program’s information base and staff expertise provide legislators with training in innovative collaboration techniques, organizational skills needed to direct committees, office and staff management, best practices in constituent outreach and communication, and staff skills development. This award allowed NCSL staff to bring unique expertise and many years of experience to these needs.

NEW MEMBER OUTREACH
$100,000

Member engagement is one of NCSL’s most important activities. NCSL provides legislators with a variety of professional development and other materials to encourage engagement with NCSL. This targeted outreach allows for ongoing efforts to customize and personalize programs and materials for legislators and legislative staff.
{ AWARD DESCRIPTIONS }

LEGISLATIVE STRENGTHENING  
$75,000
The Foundation’s Legislative Strengthening grant supported a broad range of research, writing and development activities focused on NCSL’s core mission to strengthen the legislative institution. This award focused on two projects specifically: the Hewlett Polarization and Policy Making Project, and legislator demographics and compensation research. Foundation funding enabled NCSL to publicly distribute the report and put it on NCSL’s website. It will support a guide to state legislators outlining recommendations in the Hewlett report and enable NCSL to enhance its analysis of data on legislator compensation and demographics, and develop procedures for maintaining and updating it regularly.

DATABASE AND RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT  
$65,000
This award allowed NCSL to expand the development of online databases on key issues such as education, pensions, traffic safety, health care reform, energy and environment, ethics and more. Having access to the full text of state and federal legislation through LexisNexis® State Net® also enhanced NCSL research overall, allowing staff to respond to information requests; prepare articles, briefs and publications; and develop pending and enacted legislation summaries.

LEGISLATIVE STAFF MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE  
$55,000
Since 1990, the Foundation has supported the operation of the annual Legislative Staff Management Institute. The Institute is the nation’s premier program for developing and enhancing management and leadership skills for America’s leading legislative staffers. The Foundation’s assistance enabled NCSL to provide scholarships for senior legislative staff attending this executive management program.

KNOWWHO DATABASE  
$50,000
This award allowed NCSL to expand its data on legislators for the StateConnect online directory, continue its work collecting and analyzing pre-election and election results, and enhance existing data collection efforts in Personify (association management software) system.
{ AWARD DESCRIPTIONS }

**NCSL TASK FORCE SUPPORT**
$35,000

Task forces created by the NCSL Executive Committee examine topics of great importance to the states. The NCSL Foundation supported a number of the task forces with this award, helping reduce the amount of individual fundraising required for each task force.

**INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS**
$30,000

This award supported the ongoing work of NCSL’s international program. For more than 20 years, NCSL has promoted communication, understanding and the exchange of ideas among state legislators and legislative staff and the members and staff of national and subnational parliaments and other counterpart organizations throughout the world. Requests for information to NCSL are most often about federalism; public policy issues such as economic development, fiscal relations, social services and infrastructure development; and technical assistance involving staff training and the legislative institutions in developing countries.

**E-LEARNING**
$15,000

This award provided online learning and training for legislators and legislative staff. E-learning technologies assist NCSL in expanding opportunities for legislators and legislative staff to participate in NCSL programs when they are unable to travel. This award provided content for online programming about public policies and professional development training for legislators and legislative staff, as well as content for the Legislative Staff University on the NCSL website. The project is guided by, and receives input from, the Member Outreach and Communications Committee of the NCSL Executive Committee.

**MULTI-SECTOR PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP**
$10,000

This partnership has begun to capitalize on NCSL’s expertise in the transportation sector while expanding our capacity to provide legislators with a broader examination of P3s. Under the guidance of the partners, NCSL staff has been conducting original research and create unique educational experiences for legislators to increase their knowledge of P3s and the P3 procurement process.

**RETIREMENT SECURITY PARTNERSHIP**
$10,000

This partnership brought together legislators, key legislative staff, and financial services representatives to discuss what states can do to increase access to retirement savings for all Americans. Under the guidance of the partners, NCSL convened a number of meetings, culminating in a Retirement Security Summit at the 2016 Legislative Summit in Chicago.
2016 EVENTS & ACTIVITIES: JULY 1, 2015-JUNE 30, 2016

NCSL Legislative Summit
Seattle, Wash.
Aug. 3-6, 2015

President-elect’s Reception
Seattle, Wash.
Aug. 2, 2015

NCSL Foundation
Board of Directors Meeting
Seattle, Wash.
Aug. 3, 2015

NCSL Foundation
President’s Reception
Seattle, Wash.
Aug. 3, 2015

Symposium for Legislative Leaders
Quebec City, Quebec
Canada
Sept. 17-19, 2015
Platinum Sponsors

Emerging Leaders Symposium
Bentonville, Ark.
Oct. 8-10, 2015
Hosted by Walmart
Platinum and Gold Sponsors

NCSL Capitol Forum
Washington, D.C.
Dec. 8-11, 2015

NCSL Foundation
Signature Dinner
Washington, D.C.
Dec. 9, 2015

New Mexico Representative Jane Powdrell-Culbert addresses the participants at a Women’s Legislative Network roundtable discussion session hosted at the NCSL Legislative Summit in Seattle.

Some of NCSL’s Foundation Sponsors who attended the Symposium for Legislative Leaders in Quebec, Canada.

Gerard Dehmann, Senior Vice President, Public Affairs & State and Local Government for Walmart, introduces the company’s CEO, Doug McMillon, to the NCSL Emerging Leaders group in Bentonville, Ark. on the Walmart campus.

Ethan Wilson, Policy Associate with the NCSL Center for Ethics in Government leading an Ethics and Social Media training for young and newly elected legislators at the NCSL Capitol Forum.
NCSL Winter Executive Committee Meeting
Salt Lake City, Utah
Jan. 7-9, 2016

NCSL Foundation Legislative Luncheon
Washington, D.C.
Mar. 9, 2016
Hosted by the Nuclear Energy Institute

NCSL Spring Executive Committee Meeting
Minneapolis, Minn.
May 19-21, 2016

NCSL Foundation Reception
Minneapolis, Minn.
May 20, 2016

Symposium for Legislative Leaders
Washington, D.C.
June 8-10, 2016
Platinum Sponsors

NCSL Foundation & SGAC Luncheon
Washington, D.C.
June 15, 2016

Legislative leaders got a rare behind-the-scenes tour of the Library of Congress and posed for this photo on the roof during the Symposium for Legislative Leaders in Washington, D.C. in June, 2016.

NCSL President Senator Curt Bramble, center, addressed the NCSL Young and New Professionals group with insights into how to be an effective legislator at the 2015 Capitol Forum YNP Reception in Washington, D.C.
The NCSL Foundation for State Legislatures’ volunteer board of directors is composed of corporate and union executives as well as state legislative leaders and senior legislative staff.

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American Retirement Association
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National Education Association
National Education Association
National Education Association
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Sodexo
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The Carpet & Rug Institute
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American Gaming Association
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American Medical Association
AmerisourceBergen
Ash Grove Cement Company
Association of American Railroads
Blue Cross Blue Shield Association
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company
CEDIA
CompTIA
Consumer Healthcare Products Association
CropLife America
Diageo
Dominion
eBay
Educational Testing Service
ExxonMobil
General Mills
GlaxoSmithKline
Hallmark Cards
InState Partners
International Bottled Water Association
John Deere
Johnson & Johnson
JPMorgan Chase
Mattel
MultiState Associates
National Association of Chain Drug Stores
National Association of Home Builders
National Business Aviation Association
National Electrical Manufacturers Association
National Federation of Independent Business
Nike, Inc.
Northrop Grumman
Property Casualty Insurers Association of America
Purdue Pharma
Retail Industry Leaders Association
Satellite Broadcasting and Communications Association
Service Employees International Union
Teladoc
The Coca-Cola Company
The Hershey Company
Toyota
Tyco International
USIC
OPERATING EXPENSES
Salaries and Benefits ................................................. $460,813
Operating Costs ....................................................... $370,902

TOTAL EXPENSES .................................................... $831,715

REVENUES
Unrestricted Contributions ..................................... $2,387,500

TOTAL REVENUES ................................................. $2,387,500

AWARDS TO NCSL
Center for Ethics in Government ......................... $309,185
Unrestricted Awards to NCSL ................................. $1,180,000
Women’s Legislative Network .............................. $58,253

TOTAL AWARDS .................................................... $1,547,438

CONTRIBUTIONS
During FY 2016, 192 contributions were received as follows:

Platinum 25 @ $25,000 ........................................ $625,000
Gold 111 @ $12,500 or more ......................... $1,342,500
Silver 56 @ $7,500 or more ....................... $420,000

TOTAL CONTRIBUTOR SUPPORT ...................... $2,387,500