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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, nonprofits 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 $1,305,000 to NCSL for strategic projects and activities, and $418,003 for NCSL Foundation programs. Awards to NCSL for fiscal year 2017 totaled $1,723,003.
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 critical for NCSL to accomplish its mission of strengthening state legislatures. 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 continuing annual support. Thank you.

Awards from the Foundation in fiscal year 2017 allowed NCSL to bolster activities and research initiatives on unmanned aircraft systems, safe and reliable water infrastructure, rural education and much more. Support for the important work of the Center for Ethics in Government and the Women’s Legislative Network continued as well.

Your generosity allowed for the expansion of NCSL online databases on topics important to legislators and staff, such as autonomous vehicle legislation and a marijuana information clearinghouse. Support for legislator and legislative staff professional development helped strengthen and support the legislative institution. Support for research on untested sexual assault evidence and elections allowed NCSL to provide timely information to legislators and staff as they developed solutions to complex issues. Webinars on topics such as U.S. Supreme Court redistricting cases, infant and early childhood mental health and labor and sex trafficking provided legislators and staff with vital information to support their work. A detailed list of all of the awards your contributions supported are provided in this report.

These programs and projects were made possible this year with your generosity. We greatly appreciate your commitment to the NCSL mission of strengthening state legislatures. I 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 excited to report the NCSL Foundation achieved its fundraising goal for another consecutive year. The Foundation offered many opportunities for sponsors—from the annual Legislative Summit in Chicago to the NCSL Capitol Forum in Washington, D.C.—to network with legislative leaders, legislators and key legislative staff.

The Foundation hosted private sector networking opportunities by way of happy hours, luncheons, receptions and dinners with NCSL Standing Committee members, members of the NCSL Executive Committee, and other key legislators and staff from across the country. We held the annual Foundation President’s dinner at Charlie Palmer Steak in conjunction with the 2016 NCSL Capitol Forum in Washington, D.C. Sponsors dined with NCSL Standing Committee chairs and Executive Committee members. NCSL Executive Director Bill Pound provided our sponsors with a 2017 legislative session overview and a preview of the 2017 Legislative Summit at the annual Foundation luncheon. We also teamed up with the State Government Affairs Council to discuss programming for the 2017 Legislative Summit with NCSL committee directors. NCSL and the Foundation look forward to offering more opportunities for sponsors to engage with our constituents.

Thank you for helping us exceed our ambitious fundraising goal of nearly $2.5 million. This year sponsorship grew to 209 sponsors including 28 new sponsors joining the Foundation. This is the largest the NCSL Foundation has ever been! Overall, the number of platinum sponsorships has remained steady while sponsorship at the gold and silver levels has surged. Your generosity allowed the foundation to award more than $1.5 million to NCSL programs. Also, you provided support for public-private partnerships on retirement security and multisector public-private partnerships.

I sincerely appreciate your continued support and I’m honored to have served 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.

Curt Bramble

Senate President Pro Tempore, Utah

President, NCSL Foundation for State Legislatures, 2016-2017
Watch our video for more information on how the NCSL Foundation supports the work of NCSL.
Since 1984, the Foundation has transferred and awarded more than $21 million to NCSL.
LEADERS’ SERVICES
$250,000
This award supported the Leaders’ Center, which offers legislative leaders, and future leaders, specialized programs and services including timely information on public policy and ideas for innovative management. Specifically, the award supported important seminars designed exclusively for leaders and emerging leaders. Special seminars for legislative leaders and emerging leaders took place in Normandy, France, in September 2016; the U.S. Virgin Islands in December 2016; Gettysburg, Penn., in May 2017; and in Washington, D.C., in June 2017.

NEW MEMBER OUTREACH
$175,000
Member engagement is one of NCSL's most important activities. NCSL provides legislators and legislative staff with a variety of professional development and other materials to encourage engagement with NCSL. This outreach allows for ongoing efforts to customize and personalize programs and materials for legislators and legislative staff.

WEB DEVELOPMENT
$165,000
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.

CHALLENGE GRANTS*
$165,000 TOTAL ($65,000 SUPPLEMENTAL)
This award supported the entrepreneurial spirit of NCSL staff, who were challenged to develop innovative ideas to expand services and 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 eight challenge grants ranging from autonomous vehicles, unmanned aircraft systems, and safe water all the way to rural education, marijuana, and untested sexual assault evidence.
AWARD DESCRIPTIONS

LEGISLATIVE STUDIES: TRAINING AND CONSULTING
$160,000

The extraordinary pressures state legislators face as they try to develop public policy in a contentious political world while reducing state budgets to fit shrinking revenues emphasize the value of institution strengthening and personal and professional skills development for legislators and their staffs. The NCSL State Services Division makes resources and technical assistance available to legislatures. The program is unique in the U.S. 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, skills in office and staff management, the knowledge of legislatures that new members must acquire at warp speed, 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.

WEB GRAPHICS AND DESIGN
$105,000

This award assisted NCSL in its long-term goal to bring consistency to its print and digital publications, branding, web materials and other information distributed to constituents. This award facilitated centralized oversight and allowed focus on:

- Infographics offering a quick way to understand the complex policy issues confronting state lawmakers.
- Interactive web graphics that provide powerful tools to understand the different variables involved in making public policy decisions.
- New data visualization tools that are especially helpful in demonstrating how policy issues change over time.
- Design that ties all these tools together to present consistent and professional digital and print materials to NCSL constituents.

Visit our website
DATABASE AND RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT
$55,000
This award allowed NCSL to expand the development of online databases on key issues such as education, pensions, traffic safety, health care reform, the future of energy, ethics and more. Having access to the full text of state and federal legislation through LexisNexis® State Net® enhanced NCSL research resources overall in responding to information requests, preparing articles, briefs and publications, and developing 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 enables NCSL to provide scholarships for senior legislative staff attending this executive management program.

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

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS
$40,000
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 sub-national parliaments and other counterpart organizations throughout the world. Requests for information from NCSL are most often about federalism, public policy issues such as economic development, fiscal relations, social services, infrastructure development and technical assistance projects involving staff training and the legislative institutions in developing countries. In 2017, the NCSL International program supported and welcomed programs with Bavarian Parliament, the Conference of State Legislatures of Nigeria, and the Kenyan Parliamentary Service Commission Study.
E-LEARNING
$25,000
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 allowed NCSL to create content for online issue programming and online skill development training for legislators and legislative staff as well as online content for the Legislative Staff University on the NCSL website. The five most popular webinars from this period were: “The Keys to Effective, Engaging Presentation,” “Hot Issues in the Upcoming 2017 Sessions,” “The State of Health Insurance 2017,” “SCOTUS Redistricting Cases” and “Federal and State Pre-emption Basics: What Every Drafter Ought to Know.” These webinars all had more than 150 attendees. The project was guided by and received input from the Member Outreach and Communications Committee of the NCSL Executive Committee.

SUPPLEMENTAL AWARDS*

EMERGING LEADERS
$50,000
This award supported the development and delivery of programs, services and materials for new and emerging leaders on a continuous basis. Programs focused on specialized and experiential training programs to equip new and future leaders with tools to successfully meet the challenges of the legislative environment. This award was combined with the FY18 award to deliver two programs.

This award also supported building capacity to create future programming by allowing the exploration and initial first-steps in creating experiential programs for delivery as new leaders are identified leading up to and after the election.

SMART COMMUNITIES
PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP
$10,000
This award allowed for the creation of the Smart Communities project. As cities grow, they often struggle to meet increased resource demands while remaining productive, inviting and accessible. Smart communities utilize advances in transportation, energy and information technology to enhance a city’s livability, productivity, sustainability and resilience. State policies that allow and promote the intelligent implementation of emerging communications, transportation and energy technologies, and the public-private partnerships that can leverage these technologies, can help states access the benefits that smart communities have to offer. This effort is providing outreach to state legislators on the smart cities concept and explore policies that can help make it a reality.

*These awards were supplemental and approved at the NCSL Foundation Board of Directors’ Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, August 2017.
{ EVENTS & ACTIVITIES: JULY 1, 2016-JUNE 30, 2017 }

NCSL Legislative Summit  
Aug 8-11, 2016 | Chicago

NCSL Foundation Board of Directors Meeting  
Aug. 8, 2016 | Chicago

NCSL President-elect’s Reception  
Honoring Senator Michael Gronstal  
Aug. 7, 2016 | Chicago

NCSL Foundation President’s Reception Honoring Senator Curt Bramble  
Aug. 9, 2016 | Chicago

NCSL Fall Executive Committee Meeting  
Oct. 7-8, 2016 | Omaha, Neb.

NCSL Capitol Forum  
Dec. 6-9, 2016 | Washington, D.C.

NCSL Foundation President’s Dinner  
Dec. 7, 2016 | Washington, D.C.

Symposium for Legislative Leaders  
Dec. 14-16, 2016 | St. Thomas, USVI  
Platinum sponsors only

Legislative leaders visit a D-Day invasion site in September 2016 as part of the experiential Normandy leadership development program.

Legislative leaders glean leadership lessons while touring the Gettysburg battlefield in May 2017.

Legislative leaders listen to Rear Adm. Scott More and learn about “No-Fail” teams during the Symposium for Legislative Leaders in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, December 2016.
{ EVENTS & ACTIVITIES: JULY 1, 2016-JUNE 30, 2017 }

NCSL Winter Executive Committee Meeting

NCSL Foundation Board of Directors Meeting

NCSL Executive Director’s Luncheon
March 7, 2017 | Washington, D.C.

NCSL Foundation and SGAC Luncheon
March 23, 2017 | Washington, D.C.

NCSL Spring Executive Committee Meeting
April 20-22, 2017 | Santa Fe, N.M.

Symposium for Legislative Leaders
June 7-9, 2017 | Washington, D.C.
Platinum sponsors only

Former Colorado state Senator Mark Scheffel (Capital Advantage) and NCSL Foundation President Senator Curt Bramble (R-Utah) at the NCSL Foundation reception at the 2017 Spring NCSL Executive Committee meeting in Santa Fe, N.M.

Legislative leaders pose for a picture on the steps of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building near the White House during the Symposium for Legislative Leaders in Washington, D.C., in June 2017.

Legislative leaders were addressed by Secretary of Health and Human Services Tom Price at the White House during the Symposium for Legislative Leaders in Washington, D.C., in June 2017.

Megan Hannigan (PayPal), Dan Felton (Philips Healthcare) and Jean Cantrell (Philips Lighting) at the 2016 Legislative Summit in Chicago.
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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National Retail Federation
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

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Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association  
Service Employees International Union  
Solar Energy Industries Association  
Toyota Motor North America  
Wellcare  
WSP
OPERATING EXPENSES

Salaries and Benefits ................................................. $465,002
Operating Costs ....................................................... $373,485

TOTAL EXPENSES .................................................... $838,487

REVENUES

Unrestricted Contributions ..................................... $2,585,000

TOTAL REVENUES ................................................. $2,585,000

AWARDS TO NCSL

Center for Ethics in Government ............................... $316,778
Women’s Legislative Network ................................... $101,225
Unrestricted awards to NCSL ................................. $1,305,000

TOTAL AWARDS .............................................................. $1,723,003

CONTRIBUTIONS

During FY 2017, contributions were received as follows:

Platinum 29 @ $25,000 ................................. $725,000
Gold 105 @ $12,500 or more ................ $1,312,500
Silver 73 @ $7,500 or more ..................... $547,500

TOTAL CONTRIBUTOR SUPPORT ........................ $2,585,000