72nd Annual Meeting
of the
Southern Legislative Conference
Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As Chair of the Southern Legislative Conference, it is my pleasure to welcome you to St. Louis, where the spirit and determination reflect many of the best features Missouri has to offer. Having served as the Gateway City for the westward expansion and first North American city to host the Olympics, St. Louis is proud to host more than 1,300 state legislative leaders, lawmakers, staff and others for what promises to be a very special SLC Annual Meeting.

Policy sessions feature nationally recognized experts on critical topics for the Southern region. Several of our state government leaders will discuss successes of the Show-Me State on aging inmate populations, mental health services for youth and economic development strategies. Further dialogue on existing and emerging state government innovations and solutions continue a tradition of excellence that has established the Annual Meeting as the best attended and most anticipated regional meeting of state legislators and staff.

Our dedicated Host State Committee and coordinators have arranged many outstanding events that embody the rich history, world-class sports teams and amazing culture of the Show-Me State. Our opening event at Ballpark Village is complete with appearances from former professional athletes. Family night at the Saint Louis Zoo – voted America’s top free attraction and the best zoo in the United States – welcomes the SLC family to an evening of adventure.

While in our great state, you will experience the Southern hospitality of our community of legislators, legislative staff and volunteers. For many, the Gateway City has served as a starting point for adventure and opportunity, and I am confident you will find it the same.

Ron Richard
Senate President Pro Tem, Missouri
SLC Chair 2017–2018

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<tr>
<th>CHAIR ELECT</th>
<th>IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR</th>
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<tr>
<td>Speaker Taylor F. Barras</td>
<td>Speaker Philip Gunn</td>
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<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>Mississippi</td>
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<th>DIRECTOR</th>
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<td>Ms. Colleen Cousineau</td>
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LOCATIONS

All substantive policy sessions, workshops and events are held at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at The Arch.

Annual Meeting registration is located in the Grand Ballroom prefunction area on the fourth floor.

The SLC/Ron Richard Campaign Against Hunger Food Packaging Event will start at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday in Grand Ballrooms E-H on the fourth floor.

COMMITTEE TECHNICAL TOURS

Sign-up for committee technical tours is available in the SLC Policy Office—Mills Studio 3 on the fourth floor.

Buses for technical tours of the Economic Development, Transportation & Cultural Affairs Committee and Energy & Environment Committee will begin boarding in front of the hotel entrance on 4th Street at 11:15 a.m. on Tuesday and will depart promptly at 11:30 a.m.

Participants in the Agriculture & Rural Development Committee technical tour will gather in the hotel lobby at 11:15 a.m., departing promptly at 11:30 a.m. Participants may opt for a brief walk or shuttle to the boat dock.

ETHICS

The ethics laws in some states prohibit or limit the value of gifts to legislators and legislative staff. If it is a violation of your state’s ethics laws to accept or use any of these gifts, you may return them or pass them along.

ATTIRE

Attire for committee meetings is business casual. Attire for family and guest activities is casual unless otherwise indicated. Attire for the State Dinner—intended for guests age 18 and over—is business formal.
CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION (CLE)

Attending substantive committee sessions may qualify for Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits for state government officials in SLC member states. Substantive committee sessions are identified with a superscript CLE following the session title. Forms and instructions are available by the CLE sign at Annual Meeting registration. For additional details, contact Mikko Lindberg in the SLC Executive Office—Mills Studio 1 on the fourth floor—or at mlindberg@csg.org.

ALCOHOL

The Council of State Governments advocates responsible consumption of alcohol and use of designated drivers by all participants at CSG functions.

OPEN MEETINGS

All publicized SLC committee sessions and plenary sessions are open to all registrants regardless of formal committee appointments or affiliations.
Annual Meeting Overview

**SATURDAY**
**JULY 21**

7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
REGISTRATION

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
STAFF WORKSHOP

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SESSION

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.  
OPENING RECEPTION at BALLPARK VILLAGE

**SUNDAY**
**JULY 22**

7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
REGISTRATION

8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.  
COMMITTEE SESSIONS  
Agriculture & Rural Development  
Economic Development,  
Transportation & Cultural Affairs  
Education

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
SLC/RON RICHARD CAMPAIGN AGAINST HUNGER

noon - 1:30 p.m.  
WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP FORUM

2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
COMMITTEE SESSIONS  
Energy & Environment  
Fiscal Affairs & Government Operations  
Human Services & Public Safety

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF LEADERSHIP SKILLS (CALS) RECEPTION

6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.  
FAMILY NIGHT at the SAINT LOUIS ZOO

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 25**

Departure day. No programmatic events are scheduled.
MONDAY
JULY 23

7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
REGISTRATION

8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
COMMITTEE SESSIONS
Energy & Environment
Fiscal Affairs &
Government Operations
Human Services & Public Safety

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
OPENING PLENARY SESSION

noon - 1:30 p.m.
COMPARATIVE DATA REPORTS

2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
COMMITTEE SESSIONS
Agriculture & Rural Development
Economic Development,
Transportation & Cultural Affairs
Education

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
PROGRAM INTERVAL

9:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.
2019 HOST STATE RECEPTION:
LOUISIANA

TUESDAY
JULY 24

7:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
REGISTRATION

8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
CLOSING PLENARY & BUSINESS BREAKFAST SESSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Meets upon conclusion of the Closing Plenary

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
STATE TRANSFORMATION IN ACTION RECOGNITION (STAR) AWARD JUDGES PANEL

11:15 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
COMMITTEE TECHNICAL TOURS

6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
RECEPTION & STATE DINNER

St. Louis, Missouri | July 21-25, 2018

Departure day. No programmatic events are scheduled.
Saturday, July 21

7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
**REGISTRATION**
Grand Ballroom Prefunction Area, Fourth Floor

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
**STAFF WORKSHOP CLE**
Regency Ballrooms A-B, Second Floor

**PRESIDING OFFICER:**
Marcia Goff, Research Director, House of Representatives, Oklahoma; Legislative Service Agency Directors Chair

**Supreme Court Update**
Lisa Soronen, Executive Director,
State and Local Legal Center, Washington, D.C.

**Homeland Security and Emergency Planning at State Capitols**
Michael E. Dossett, Director, Kentucky Emergency Management

**Retaining and Rewarding Legislative Staff**
Marty Garrity, Director,
Bureau of Legislative Research, Arkansas
Martha Wigton, Director,
House Budget and Research Office, Georgia

**Succession Planning in State Government**
Adriane Crouse, Secretary of the Senate, Missouri
Patrick Baker, Senate Administrator, Missouri
Saturday, July 21

3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Grand Ballrooms A-B, Fourth Floor
PRESIDING OFFICER:
Senate President Pro Tem Ron Richard, Missouri; SLC Chair

Pete Herschend, Co-Founder and Co-Owner of Herschend Family Entertainment Corporation
Founded in 1950 by Jack and Pete Herschend of Branson, Missouri, Herschend Family Entertainment has grown into the nation’s largest family-owned themed attractions corporation, with more than 10,000 employees and 23 entertainment, tourism and hospitality properties across six states. Pete has devoted his professional life to the family business, serving as both executive vice president of marketing and vice chairman.

7:00 – 10:00 p.m.
OPENING RECEPTION at
BALLPARK VILLAGE
Shuttle buses will run loops between the hotel entrance on 4th street and the ballpark from 6:45 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.
Name badge required for entry.
The Economics of Herbicides: The Dicamba Dilemma

Herbicides are necessary to ensure healthy crops and sufficient food for growing populations. In 2017, newly registered dicamba formulations were approved for application on cotton and soybean crops resistant to the herbicides. Of the 22 million acres of soybeans treated with these formulations, an estimated 3.4 million suffered damage related to dicamba exposure. This session reviews the economic challenges posed by affected crops, explores the changes mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and examines steps taken by Monsanto to improve application safety.

Ty Witten, Ph.D., Crop Protection Lead, North America Technology Development & Agronomy, Monsanto, Missouri
Michael Goodis, Director, Registration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C.

Legislative Roundtable

The Legislative Roundtable highlights important agricultural and rural development issues taken up in SLC member states during recent legislative sessions. Members from each state brief the committee on new measures undertaken in their respective states.
8:00 – 9:30 a.m.  
(breakfast available at 7:30 a.m.)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SESSION **CLE**

*Regency Ballrooms E-F, Second Floor*

**PRESIDING OFFICER:**

*Representative Jeanie Lauer, Missouri; Committee Chair*

**Expanding Apprenticeship Programs for Workforce Development**

With approximately 6.6 million people across the nation unemployed and 5.9 million job openings, many states and companies are turning to apprenticeship programs to expand at-work training and classroom instruction for those seeking stable, long-term positions across a wide range of occupations. From approximately 360,000 apprentices in 2011, to more than 500,000 in 2017, the range of programs available has increased to include jobs in banking, cybersecurity, healthcare and advanced manufacturing. This session reviews actions taken by states to incentivize apprenticeship programs and explores how they can be successfully expanded in the years ahead.

**Kimberly Hauge, Senior Policy Analyst,**  
**National Governors Association, Washington, D.C.**

**Brad Neese, Associate Vice President,**  
**Division of Economic Development, South Carolina Technical College System**

**Legislative Roundtable**

The Legislative Roundtable highlights important economic development, transportation and cultural affairs issues taken up in SLC member states during recent legislative sessions. Members from each state brief the committee on new measures undertaken in their respective states.

ANNUAL MEETING APP

Search for SLC Annual Meeting in the Apple App Store and Google Play or visit slcatlanta.org/MO2018app for easy access to information on policy sessions, presenters, host state guest programs and more!
Sunday, July 22

8:00 – 9:30 a.m.  
(breakfast available at 7:30 a.m.)

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE SESSION**  
**CLE**  
**Grand Ballrooms A–B, Fourth Floor**  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:**  
*Senator Joyce Elliott, Arkansas; Committee Chair*

**The Whole Child Initiative:**  
**A Collaborative Approach to Education**

In 2007, the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development launched the Whole Child Initiative as part of an innovative approach to move away from the traditional focus on academic achievement. The initiative focuses on five essential tenets—keeping a child healthy, safe, engaged, supported and challenged—to promote long-term student success. This session explores this collaborative approach and how SLC policymakers can implement the Whole Child model in their states.

*David Griffith, Senior Director of Public Policy, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, Virginia*

**Legislative Roundtable**

The Legislative Roundtable highlights important education issues taken up in SLC member states during recent legislative sessions. Members from each state brief the committee on new measures undertaken in their respective states.

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

**SLC/RON RICHARD CAMPAIGN AGAINST HUNGER**  
**Grand Ballrooms E–H, Fourth Floor**  

Begun in 2011 under the auspices of Tennessee Senator Mark Norris, please join us and help us reach a grand total of a half-million meals donated to food-insecure families by packaging 50,000 for the St. Louis Area Foodbank!
Sunday, July 22

noon – 1:30 p.m.

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP FORUM

Regency Ballrooms C-D, Second Floor

HOSTED BY:

Patty Richard on behalf of
Senate President Pro Tem Ron Richard, Missouri; SLC Chair

This event highlights outstanding female leaders in the South. Join women in high-ranking Missouri state government positions and SLC leadership roles for an address by our keynote presenter.

(As this forum is intended to bring women in government positions together, we ask that other attendees allow women in government to find their seats first.)

Build-A-Bear Workshop Founder Maxine Clark

In 1997, Maxine Clark founded Build-A-Bear Workshop, a teddy bear-themed retail entertainment experience, in St. Louis, Missouri. Today, there are more than 400 Build-A-Bear Workshop stores worldwide, with more than 145 million stuffed animals sold and revenues exceeding $5 billion. Maxine stepped down from her CEO position in 2013 to dedicate her time to investing in women and minority entrepreneurs and use her entrepreneurial skills to help reinvent K-12 education in St. Louis.
Leveraging Resources for Brownfield Restoration

The expansion, redevelopment or reuse of the more than 450,000 brownfields in the United States is complicated by the presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminant. However, mitigation and reinvestment in these properties can increase local tax bases and facilitate job growth, while improving and protecting the environment. This session highlights federal funding opportunities and success stories in the South.

*Maggie Egbarts, TAB Coordinator for EPA Regions 5 and 7, Kansas State University*

*Camilla Warren, Brownfields Revitalization Project Manager, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Georgia*

Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program

In January, the U.S. Department of the Interior released a new five-year plan that could allow for more offshore oil and gas drilling. The Draft Proposed Program would schedule 47 lease sales from 2019 to 2024, the largest number of lease sales ever proposed for the National Outer Continental Shelf. This session provides an overview of the proposed expansion.

*Timothy Williams, Deputy Director, Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.*

Oklahoma’s Coal Combustion Residuals Permit Program

Oklahoma recently became the first state in the nation to receive approval from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to operate a permit program for disposing of coal combustion residuals—commonly known as coal ash. The state Department of Environmental Quality is authorized to process applications and enforce violations for coal ash units based on state law requirements. This session reviews Oklahoma’s permitting program and what other states may expect when seeking federal approval for similar permits.

*Scott Thompson, Executive Director, Department of Environmental Quality, Oklahoma*
Sunday, July 22

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
FISCAL AFFAIRS & GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE SESSION
CLE

Grand Ballrooms A-C, Fourth Floor

PRESIDING OFFICER:
Representative Randy McDaniel, Oklahoma; Committee Chair Emeritus

National and Regional Economic Trends
The manufacturing sector of the South has seen a significant rise in output, shipments and employment during the past year of global growth. This session addresses the outlook for the national and regional economies and explores specific measures state policymakers may consider in expanding and diversifying their economies to enhance growth and revenue flows.

Mark Vitner, Managing Director and Senior Economist, Wells Fargo, North Carolina

Examining the Federal Budget’s Effect on Southern States
The $1.3 trillion fiscal year 2018 omnibus federal budget includes generous spending increases in state grant programs across the country, along with the creation of several new grant programs. This session analyzes the effects of the federal budget—and its discretionary and mandatory grant programs—on SLC member states.

Matthew Reese, Senior Budget and Policy Analyst, Federal Funds Information for States, Washington, D.C.

How States Use Data to Inform Decisions
As states look at ways to increase efficiency and reduce cost, many are looking at the data they collect as a strategic asset. Compiling and analyzing data as an asset allows states to lower the costs of governance and improve their services. This session examines successful data analysis initiatives across the country and provides valuable insights into how they inform policy, budgeting and operational decisions across all sectors of state governments.

Sunday, July 22

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

HUMAN SERVICES & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE SESSION CLE

Regency Ballrooms E–F, Second Floor

PRESIDING OFFICER:
Senator Katrina Shealy, South Carolina; Acting Committee Chair

School Safety: Solutions from States
Maintaining the safety and security of our nation’s schools has become a critical and pressing issue for state and local leaders across the nation. Issues involving medical emergencies, acute mental health episodes and active shooter situations are receiving heightened scrutiny as leaders consider investing more heavily in early intervention and prevention programs. This session focuses on various measures that bolster school safety and highlights a statewide emergency notification system in Arkansas public schools, the first of its kind in the nation.

Mark Keel, Chief, South Carolina Law Enforcement Division
Representative Scott Baltz, Arkansas
Ted Mullenix, Former State Representative, Arkansas

Mental Health Services for Children and Adolescents
Mental health issues are a common concern for millions of children and adolescents across the United States. One-fifth of this demographic has a mental health condition, half of which develop by age 14, and three-quarters by age 24. Left untreated, mental health illnesses can lead to serious issues, such as lower education and employment opportunities, drug and alcohol dependency, violence and suicide. This session reviews steps that states and community leaders can take to expand mental health services, including free or low-cost counseling, rehabilitation centers and statewide, school-based mental health counseling.

Jennifer Snow, Director, Public Policy, National Alliance on Mental Illness, Virginia
Kimberly L. Nelson, Regional Administrator, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Missouri
Sunday, July 22

3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
**NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR OFFICERS OF THE CONFERENCE**

*Mills Studio 9, Fourth Floor*

(Nominating committees for SLC standing committee officers meet separately.)

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
**CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF LEADERSHIP SKILLS RECEPTION**

*RED Kitchen, First Floor*

**SOUTHERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE**

Governmental Leadership Program of the Southern Office of The Council of State Governments

**OCTOBER 13-17, 2018 | LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS**

Join us to catch up with your CALS classmates or learn more about the program! Visit [slcatlanta.org/CALS](http://slcatlanta.org/CALS) for more information and the online application.

6:00 – 9:30 p.m.
**FAMILY NIGHT** at the **SAINT LOUIS ZOO**

Shuttle buses will run loops between the hotel entrance on 4th street and the zoo from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

*Name badge required for entry.*

Zoo gift shops will be open.
Monday, July 23

7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
REGISTRATION
Grand Ballroom Prefunction Area, Fourth Floor

8:00 – 9:30 a.m.
(breakfast available at 7:30 a.m.)
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE SESSION CLE
Regency Ballrooms A–B, Second Floor
PRESIDING OFFICER:
Representative Lynn Smith, Georgia; Committee Chair

The Future of Electricity Storage and the U.S. Grid
The electric grid was built to transmit, not store, electricity. Recent technological and regulatory advancements could change the way electricity is produced and delivered. As the cost of lithium-ion battery modules declines and a new wave of policies emerges, grid battery storage development is targeting value streams beyond frequency regulation. This session explores the power sector’s continuing evolution as companies, advocates and regulators probe how and where energy storage and grid integration make sense, especially given the interest in intermittent renewable energy.

George Crabtree, Ph.D., Director, Joint Center for Energy Storage Research, Argonne National Laboratory, Illinois

Legislative Roundtable
The Legislative Roundtable highlights important energy and environment issues taken up in SLC member states during recent legislative sessions. Members from each state brief the committee on new measures undertaken in their respective states.
Supreme Court Update: Fiscal Impacts

In the past year, the U.S. Supreme Court has heard several high-profile cases with far-reaching implications for SLC member states. The cases addressed a broad spectrum of issues, including the longstanding sales tax collection dispute between online retailers and governments in *S.D. v. Wayfair*, the legalization of professional and amateur sports gambling in *Murphy v. NCAA*, and multiple cases regarding district gerrymandering in *Gill v. Whitford* and *Benisek v. Lamone*. This session reviews these and other court cases and their implications for state governments.

Daniel Epps, Associate Professor of Law, Washington University School of Law, Missouri

Legislative Roundtable

The Legislative Roundtable highlights important fiscal and governance issues taken up in SLC member states during recent legislative sessions. Members from each state brief the committee on new measures undertaken in their respective states.
Monday, July 23

8:00 – 9:30 a.m.
(breakfast available at 7:30 a.m.)

**HUMAN SERVICES & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE SESSION CLE**

Grand Ballrooms F–G, Fourth Floor

PRESIDING OFFICER:
Senator Katrina Shealy, South Carolina; Acting Committee Chair

### Aging Inmate Populations

As inmate populations age in facilities across the nation, states often struggle to find the necessary resources to care for elderly inmates. Compared to the overall population, those incarcerated experience higher rates of costly medical conditions such as cardiac disease, high blood pressure, hepatitis and diabetes, resulting in higher healthcare expenses as they age. On average, detention of older inmates costs four to eight times more than younger inmates. Various initiatives have been considered or implemented by several states to reduce these costs, including releasing nonviolent inmates if they are deemed safe to the public, diverting them to rehabilitation programs, and allowing “compassionate release” for the sickest individuals. This session reviews these initiatives and how states can stem the growing costs of prison healthcare.

**William Sabol, Ph.D., Department of Criminal Justice & Criminology, Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, Georgia State University**

**Anne L. Precythe, Director, Department of Corrections, Missouri**

**Matt Sturm, Deputy Director, Department of Corrections, Missouri**

### Legislative Roundtable

The Legislative Roundtable highlights important human services and public safety issues taken up in SLC member states during recent legislative sessions. Members from each state brief the committee on new measures undertaken in their respective states.
Monday, July 23

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
OPENING PLENARY SESSION
Regency Ballroom, Second Floor
PRESIDING OFFICER:
Senate President Pro Tem Ron Richard, Missouri; SLC Chair

John O’Leary, National Bestselling Author and Motivational Speaker
In 1987, John O’Leary was a curious nine-year-old boy. Playing with fire and gasoline, John created a massive explosion in his home’s garage and experienced burns covering his entire body. He was given a 1 percent chance to live. Consistently described as “the best speaker we’ve ever had,” John’s emotional storytelling, unexpected humor and authenticity make each of his presentations truly inspirational.

noon – 1:30 p.m.
COMPARATIVE DATA REPORTS CLE
Grand Ballroom D, Fourth Floor
PRESIDING OFFICER:
Representative Randy McDaniel, Oklahoma; Committee Chair Emeritus

Prepared annually by legislative staff in Kentucky, Louisiana and West Virginia, comparative data reports track a multitude of revenue sources, performance measures, program variances and appropriations levels in SLC member states. They remain invaluable tools for both legislators and legislative staff in crafting effective legislation and implementing policy decisions.

Adult Corrections
Monique Appeaning, Legislative Fiscal Office, Louisiana
Education
Hank Hager, Senate Education Committee, West Virginia
Medicaid
Zachary M. Rau, Legislative Fiscal Office, Louisiana
Transportation
David Talley, Legislative Research Commission, Kentucky
2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE SESSION CLE
Regency Ballrooms A–B, Second Floor
PRESIDING OFFICER:
Senator Daniel B. Verdin III, South Carolina; Committee Chair

2018 Farm Bill: What Might Be Expected
Approved in 2014, the current U.S. Farm Bill is the centerpiece of the federal government’s food and agricultural policies and expires in September. The 2018 Farm Bill, a key legislative priority, provides comprehensive policies on conservation, trade, nutrition, jobs and infrastructure, agricultural research, forestry and energy. This session highlights some of the most notable provisions of the legislation and seeks to answer questions regarding the changes expected to have the largest impact on SLC member states.

Eric Bohl, Director of Advocacy and Public Affairs, Missouri Farm Bureau
Scott Brown, Ph.D., Director of Strategic Partnerships, College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, University of Missouri

Recommitting to Rural America: Policies and Initiatives in Southern States
Faced with population declines, hospital closures and job losses, rural communities across the South continue to struggle. To address this, states across the region are adopting legislation aimed at solving unique challenges confronting rural areas: access to healthcare, broadband expansion, economic development, infrastructure improvements and workforce readiness. This session examines recent legislative and executive actions taken in Georgia and Kentucky to revitalize the states’ rural communities.

Representative Terry England, Georgia
Jared Arnett, Executive Director, Shaping Our Appalachian Region, Kentucky
2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SESSION

Regency Ballrooms E–F, Second Floor
PRESIDING OFFICER:
Representative Jeanie Lauer, Missouri; Committee Chair

The Importance of Site Selection for Promoting Growth
In addition to the financial incentives that state and local governments often provide, companies frequently take into account the quality of life and cultural characteristics that make a location an attractive place to live. The availability of skilled labor, a hospitable business climate and affordability likewise play important roles in the site selection process. This session reviews the ways in which both urban and rural areas can maximize their strengths to ensure they are positioned to attract economic development projects that can create long-term growth.

Adam Bruns, Managing Editor,
Site Selection Magazine, Georgia
Christopher Chung, CEO, Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina

Effective Economic Development Strategies in Missouri
State and local governments often must be proactive to remain competitive in today’s evolving economic climate. By bringing together leading economic development agencies, private sector partners and institutes of learning, innovative policies can ensure education and workforce training align with long-term economic development goals. This session features efforts in Missouri to promote economic growth and maintain a strong workforce that can compete for today’s jobs.

Rob Dixon, Director,
Department of Economic Development, Missouri
Zora Mulligan, Commissioner,
Department of Higher Education, Missouri
Monday, July 23

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
EDUCATION COMMITTEE SESSION CLE

Grand Ballrooms A–B, Fourth Floor

PRESIDING OFFICER:
Senator Joyce Elliott, Arkansas; Committee Chair

World Class Education Systems Panel
As national and state educational rankings continue to stagnate, education leaders across the United States have turned outward to seek inspiration and reforms based on high performing educational systems abroad. Experts have shown that states can learn many lessons from these countries to achieve “world class” education systems. Often these countries, with diverse populations of their own, have had to overcome segregation, teacher shortages and decades of neglect to redirect their education systems. This session highlights the policies that make for a successful world class education system.

Marc Tucker, President and CEO, National Center for Education and the Economy, Washington, D.C.
Dion Burns, Senior Researcher, Learning Policy Institute, California
Senator Joyce Elliott, SLC Education Committee Chair, Arkansas
Representative Robert Behning, Indiana

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
PROGRAM INTERVAL
Free time for attendees and individual state activities.

9:00 – 11:30 p.m.
2019 HOST STATE RECEPTION: LOUISIANA

Grand Ballroom, Fourth Floor
Johnny Morris: Bass Pro Shops Founder

Johnny (John L.) Morris, founder and CEO of Bass Pro Shops, got his start in 1972 by selling fishing tackle out of the back of his father’s store. Johnny pioneered the concept of destination retail and created an outdoor gear enterprise that is one of the most beloved and well-recognized brands in North America. Today, Johnny and his companies continue to make a significant impact in communities and the future of conservation with a mission to inspire people to enjoy, love and conserve the great outdoors.

(Upon conclusion of the Closing Plenary Session)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BUSINESS SESSION

Regency Ballroom B, Second Floor

PRESIDING OFFICER:
Senate President Pro Tem Ron Richard, Missouri; SLC Chair

Don’t miss the opportunity to have your picture taken with a world-famous Clydesdale before Tuesday evening’s Reception and State Dinner! Look for signs around the hotel showing where!
Tuesday, July 24

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
STAR AWARD JUDGES PANEL CLE
Regency Ballroom A, Second Floor
PRESIDING OFFICER:
Jay Hartz, Deputy Chief of Staff,
Office of the Senate President, Kentucky

Through the State Transformation in Action Recognition (STAR) award, the Southern Office of The Council of State Governments recognizes creative, impactful, transferable and effective state government solutions. The recognition is sought by a wide array of state agencies, departments, and institutions operating within the executive, legislative and judicial governmental branches. Each year, two exceptional programs are selected by a panel of experienced policy professionals as models of innovation and effectiveness in state government in the Southern region. The five finalists presenting are:

TENNESSEE  Smart Steps Child Care Payment Assistance Program
ARKANSAS  The Good Grid
OKLAHOMA  Feral Swine Program
TENNESSEE  Tennessee Promise
ARKANSAS  K-12 Panic Button School Safety System
Tuesday, July 24

11:15 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
TECHNICAL TOUR
Participants will gather in the hotel lobby at 11:15 a.m., departing promptly at 11:30 a.m. Participants may opt for a brief walk or shuttle to the boat dock. Casual attire; lunch is provided.

Agriculture & Rural Development Committee
AG COAST OF AMERICA
Committee members will embark upon a boat excursion up the Mississippi River, one of the world’s most important commercial waterways, to learn about the economic importance of the Ag Coast of America. The huge agribusiness industry of the Mississippi River Basin produces 92 percent of the nation’s agricultural exports and 78 percent of the world’s exports in feed grains and soybeans. In St. Louis, one 15-mile section of the Mississippi River has the highest grain barge handling capacity along the waterway. While onboard, participants will view the grain terminals and transfer facilities that together handle more than 150 barges each day.

11:15 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
TECHNICAL TOUR
Bus will depart promptly at 11:30 a.m. from the hotel entrance on 4th Street; casual attire and closed-toe shoes; lunch is provided.

Energy & Environment Committee
AMEREN MISSOURI
Through tours of Ameren Missouri’s Maryland Heights Renewable Energy Center and Dorsett Training Center, committee members will learn about innovative energy generation technologies, rapid-response capabilities, and workforce training. The Maryland Heights Renewable Energy Center leverages state-of-the-art turbine technology to consistently generate approximately 15 megawatts of renewable electricity by burning methane generated by landfills. At the Dorsett Training Center, members will receive a tour focused on rapid-response capabilities, including two Mobile Command Centers and four storm trailers.
Tuesday, July 24

11:15 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
TECHNICAL TOUR
Bus will depart promptly at 11:30 a.m. from the hotel entrance on 4th Street; casual attire; lunch is provided.

Economic Development, Transportation & Cultural Affairs Committee
BOEING ST. LOUIS

With approximately 14,000 employees working at three facilities across the St. Louis region, Boeing produces sophisticated military aircraft and weapons systems for the U.S. Department of Defense and international aircraft programs. Committee members will receive briefings from Boeing officials about the company’s operations in the St. Louis region and participate in tours of the 777X commercial aircraft, F/A-18 Super Hornet production line, and on-site flight ramp.

6:00 – 6:45 p.m.
RECEPTION
Grand Ballroom Prefunction Area, Fourth Floor

7:00 – 10:00 p.m.
STATE DINNER
Grand Ballroom, Fourth Floor
(Please note, this event is intended for guests age 18 and over.)

Wednesday, July 25

DEPARTURE DAY

6:00 a.m. - noon
AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION
Buses to the airport will depart from the hotel entrance on 4th Street, with the final bus departing at noon.
The Premier Public Policy Forum for Southern State Legislatures

Host State Committee / SLC Staff

2018 Annual Meeting
Host State Committee

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Mike Kehoe

Senator S. Kiki Curls

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Senator Dan Hegeman

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Senator Bob Onder

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Senator Gina Walsh

Senator Jay Wasson

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House Majority Floor Leader Rob Vescovo

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Representative Jeanie Lauer

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House Assistant Minority Floor Leader Gina Mitten

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General Counsel, Senate

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  *Chair, Economic Development, Transportation & Cultural Affairs Committee*
  - Senator Joyce Elliott, Arkansas
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  - Representative Lynn Smith, Georgia
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  - Representative Penny Houston, Georgia
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- Senator Mark Norris, Tennessee (2010-2011)
- Senator Keith M. Ingram, Arkansas (2013-2014)
- Speaker David Ralston, Georgia (2014-2015)
- Senate President Robert Stivers, Kentucky (2015-2016)
- Speaker Philip Gunn, Mississippi (2016-2017)