

STATELINE MIDWEST



MIDWEST

AUGUST 2021 | VOLUME 30, NO. 7
THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS | MIDWESTERN OFFICE

LAND CONSERVATION POLICIES TAKE CENTER STAGE AT MLC MEETING

During expert-led session, legislators learn how new investments, partnerships with agriculture producers can improve the environment — and bottom lines

by Tim Anderson (tanderson@csg.org)

When South Dakota Sen. Gary Cammack wants to know how well his family ranching business is doing, one of his indicators is the condition of the land.

How is the diversity and vitality of our wildlife? How is the health of our soil?

“Those are barometers of profitability,” he said in July to fellow lawmakers at this year’s Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting.

Land conservation and agricultural sustainability are deeply meaningful to Cammack, who has been a rancher in his home state much longer than he has been a legislator.

“Give back to the land so it continues to produce for you,” Cammack said of one of the lessons learned from his decades of ranching.

Three years ago, Cammack Ranch was awarded the Leopold Conservation Award, a recognition of the family’s many successful practices over the past three decades — for example, the use of rotational grazing, the planting of tens of thousands of trees, and decisions that minimized the beef herd’s movement near water sources.

This year, under the leadership of Cammack, the MLC has been examining state policies that help the Midwest’s farmers and ranchers “give back,” and prosper as a result.

Three expert speakers joined Cammack for a featured session on this topic at the July meeting. It was held as part of his MLC Chair’s Initiative for 2021.

One of the takeaway messages for legislators: If you’re interested in broader issues of

MLC Chair’s Initiative



environmental protection, you need to look for ways of assisting your state’s agricultural producers.

“Nearly three quarters of the land in the continental United States is privately owned, and the vast majority of that land is in working farms, ranches and forests,” said Kevin McAleese, president and CEO of the Sand County Foundation, which runs the Leopold Award program for conservation-leading private landowners.

“So if you care about clean water and open space and wildlife recreation, you need to care about private lands.”

NEW PARTNERSHIPS, INVESTMENTS IN OHIO

Lake Erie is one of the crown jewels of Ohio.

But pollution runoff has degraded its water quality, led to harmful algal blooms and

SPECIAL EDITION OF STATELINE MIDWEST: COVERAGE OF THE 2021 MIDWESTERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING

This edition of *Stateline Midwest* highlights the sessions held and actions taken at this summer’s Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting. The Council of State Governments provides staff support to the MLC: a binational, nonpartisan association of legislators from the Midwest’s U.S. states and Canadian provinces.

This year’s event, held July 11-14 in South Dakota, marked the 75th Annual Meeting of the MLC. It was hosted and chaired by South Dakota Senate Majority Leader Gary Cammack. CSG Midwest thanks all MLC participants, speakers and sponsors for making this landmark meeting a success, and greatly appreciates the many hours of work put in by South Dakota’s host legislators and staff at the Legislative Research Council.

Inside this issue, you will find articles on sessions hosted by the MLC’s policy committees and led by various keynote speakers. You will also learn about actions taken by the full MLC, including the passage of resolutions on topics such as federalism, chronic wasting disease, food-labeling laws and reopening the Canada-U.S. border.



South Dakota Senate Majority Leader Gary Cammack talks to fellow lawmakers at this year’s Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting. Cammack is the 2021 MLC chair, and has made land conservation the topic of his 2021 MLC Chair’s Initiative. In July, at the MLC Annual Meeting in South Dakota, he led a featured session on this topic with the help of three policy experts. (photo: Johnny Sundby)

► COVER STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

CSG Midwest Issue Briefs 2-5

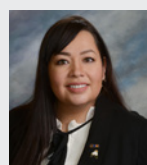
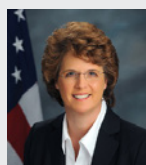
- **Education:** Year of learning loss puts pressure on states to find ways of helping students catch up
- **Fiscal Affairs:** What policymakers got right during the pandemic to ensure budgets didn’t go in wrong direction
- **Economic Development:** Jobless data point to challenges ahead for non-degreed workers, long-term unemployed
- **Criminal Justice & Public Safety:** ‘Fair licensing’ reforms aim to improve career prospects of formerly incarcerated
- **Health & Human Services:** ‘Tsunami’ of mental health needs among top post-pandemic challenges facing states
- **Agriculture & Natural Resources:** Effective career and technical education seen as way of building stronger workforces in agriculture, other key sectors

Featured MLC Meeting Sessions 6

- Historian Ronald White shares the timeless wisdom of Abraham Lincoln with today’s political leaders
- Tawanna Black discusses path to inclusive economic growth
- Futurist Ben Hammersley lays out four existential threats to address in the post-pandemic United States

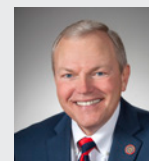
Capital Insights 8-9

- **Profile:** Kansas Sen. Carolyn McGinn
- **FirstPerson article:** South Dakota Rep. Peri Pourier on the tragedy of missing Indigenous women, children



CSG Midwest News 10

- Midwestern Legislative Conference approves five policy resolutions in July at Annual Meeting
- Ohio Sen. Bill Reineke joins four-member officer team of Midwestern Legislative Conference



BILLD News 11

- Bipartisan group of state, provincial legislators from region chosen to take part in this year’s CSG Midwest Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development

EDUCATION

'Short-term' or 'generational' impact? Critical choices ahead in mitigating learning loss from past school year

by Tim Anderson (tanderson@csg.org)

Look back at the last school year is a reminder of the educational imperatives that lie ahead for states and their school districts.

Tiffany Sanderson, secretary of the South Dakota Department of Education, put the stakes this way to lawmakers who attended a July session of the Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting:

Effectively re-engage students who were chronically absent or who fell behind academically due to a year of instructional disruptions and alterations, and you've contained the problem to a "short-term educational impact."

Fail to do so? Then it becomes a "generational impact."

Sanderson was one of two expert presenters at this session organized by the MLC Education Committee. She and the second speaker, Phillip Lovell, focused on the impacts of COVID-19 and related policies on student achievement.

"There are now even greater gaps in learning, especially among our historically underserved students," said Lovell, associate executive director of the Alliance for Excellent Education.

Nationwide analyses comparing academic gains during two different school years — the pandemic year of 2020-'21 vs. the non-pandemic year of 2018-'19 — show that minority and low-income students were hit the hardest.

"Students who were more likely to be in remote learning ... were less likely to have access to the technology they needed [for remote learning]," Lovell said. "It was a bad combination."

In South Dakota, during a typical year,



South Dakota Sen. Jim Bolin presides over this year's MLC Education Committee meeting. He serves as co-chair of the committee along with Ohio Sen. Hearcel Craig. (photo: Johnny Sundby)

about 3 percent of students miss 30 or more days of school. That rate of chronic absenteeism more than doubled in 2020-'21, Sanderson said. These higher rates tended to be in schools providing virtual rather than in-person learning. More than half of the state's chronically absent students were Native American and 80 percent were low-income.

Lovell singled out three post-pandemic challenges for all states to address. One is helping students catch up from lost learning opportunities over the past year. Options include developing summer learning and enrichment activities, extending the school day and year, and investing more in tutoring and evidence-based interventions.

He also emphasized the importance of closing digital divides that leave students without access to high-speed home internet.

Lastly, he said, new policies are needed to improve postsecondary readiness. Currently, only about 37 percent of graduating high school students are prepared for college-level math and reading; 70 percent of beginning students at two-year colleges require remedial coursework.

According to Lovell, states can improve these numbers in part by strengthening the rigor of K-12 curricula and expanding access to college-credit courses.

He singled out a competency-based education model in Georgia known as "Move on When Ready," a requirement in Indiana that high schools offer two advanced-placement and two dual-enrollment courses, and a new law in California that incentivizes schools to develop high-quality career and technical education courses.

\$123 BILLION OPPORTUNITY

One huge new opportunity for states: the American Rescue Plan Act, which sets aside \$123 billion for states and school districts to spend on education between now and 2026.

"There are often strings attached to money that comes from Washington," Lovell said. "These [dollars] have as few strings as possible attached to them."

In South Dakota, the money will go to three priority areas, Sanderson said.

One is improving the recruitment and retention of educators. The second is better addressing the social-emotional needs of young people, an area that Sanderson said was the "highest need expressed" during recent listening

STUDENTS' ACADEMIC GROWTH DURING 2020-'21 SCHOOL YEAR COMPARED TO GROWTH IN 2018-'19 — AS MEASURED BY CHANGES IN MEDIAN SCORES ON THE MAP TEST (MEASURE OF ACADEMIC PROGRESS)		
Grade and subject	Low-poverty schools	High-poverty schools
Third-grade reading	-3*	-11*
Eighth-grade reading	-2*	-6*
Third-grade math	-6*	-17*
Eighth-grade math	-8*	-8*
<small>* Figures represent the difference in percentile points. Student learning gained during the pandemic school year, 2020-'21. But that growth in achievement lagged compared to increases during a typical school year (2018-'19 school year). The decline in student growth was steeper in high-poverty schools.</small>		
<small>Source: NWEA Center for School and Student Progress</small>		

sessions held across the state. Lastly, South Dakota will explore new ways of delivering instruction, with less emphasis on seat-time requirements in favor of a personalized, competency-based model. "Help students accelerate when they're ready to do so," she explained, "and have more time and attention given where they might be at risk or in need of additional supports."

To advance the competency-based model, South Dakota is investing in new teacher training and expanding the availability of digital-learning options.

Tim Anderson is CSG Midwest's staff liaison to the MLC Education Committee.

FISCAL AFFAIRS

Most states have landed on sound fiscal footing — after a roller-coaster year caused by the pandemic

by Tim Anderson (tanderson@csg.org)

When most states closed their books this summer on fiscal year 2021, the vast majority of them had revenue collections that outpaced their budget forecasts.

That's not so unusual in a typical fiscal cycle.

But in the year of a pandemic, when economic activity was curtailed or even shut down, few if any fiscal analysts were predicting such sound conditions.

"We weren't wrong; what happened is a lot of things were done right," Shelby Kerns, executive director of the National Association of State Budget Officers, said in July at the Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting.

For example, federal stimulus dollars propped up state income and sales taxes.

States themselves, meanwhile, had successfully fought for the authority to collect sales taxes from e-commerce transactions. And during the first quarter of calendar year 2021, e-commerce accounted for 13.6 percent of total U.S. sales; that compares to 7.8 percent five years ago.

"Can you imagine the trouble that states



Minnesota Rep. Fue Lee and Kansas Rep. Troy Waymaster lead the first-ever meeting of the MLC's newly created Fiscal Affairs Committee. They are the committee's co-chairs. (photo: Johnny Sundby)

that rely on the sales tax would be in if it wasn't for that [change]?" Kerns asked.

Also leading up to the pandemic, states had built up record levels of rainy day funds and other reserves.

Other, unanticipated factors ended up helping states as well.

High-wage earners were largely insulated from the pandemic's economic effects, thus limiting the impact on income tax collections, while shifts in consumption actually helped state tax bases — a move away from the purchasing of services

(often not taxed by states) and toward goods. Plus, the stock market hit record levels.

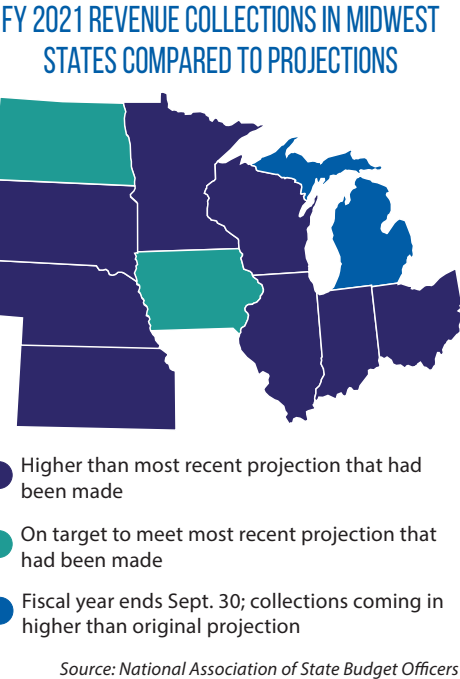
Despite this good news, state revenue estimates are still below pre-pandemic forecasts, Kerns said. She added that legislators should be prepared for a rise in expenditures, most notably in Medicaid, as a temporary boost in federal aid ends and must be replaced by state dollars.

The July session (organized by the MLC Fiscal Affairs Committee) also included a look at how states will use the billions of dollars coming to them via the American Rescue Plan Act.

The Council of State Governments is tracking state activity, and two CSG experts, Christina Gordley and Carl Sims, shared some of their findings.

So far, Sims said, states are looking to "make sure [ARPA] funds have a long-term impact and return on investment" while not adding to the "state's ongoing financial responsibilities."

For example, states are making one-time investments in broadband and other infrastructure needs, as well as



modernizing their unemployment and information technology systems.

Tim Anderson is CSG Midwest publications manager.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Hit hard by pandemic, many women, minority and non-degreed workers still face labor-market challenges

by Laura Tomaka (*ltomaka@csg.org*)

The pandemic-related dip in jobs and economic output often has been referred to as the “she-cession” because of its disproportionate, adverse impact on female workers.

Economist Michael Horrigan told legislators in July that federal data on employment tell a slightly more nuanced story.

It’s a “less-than-B.A. recession,” he said, “with significant impacts on women and minorities.”

Likewise, many groups of workers without postsecondary degrees or credentials continue to struggle even as the U.S. economy grows.

“Those with less than a [bachelor’s degree] have had an especially difficult time regaining employment since April 2020,” Horrigan, president of the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, said during a session organized by the Midwestern Legislative Conference Economic Development Committee.

During the first few months of the pandemic (February to April 2020), overall employment declined by 22.2 million jobs. This drop was highly concentrated in lower-wage sectors and establishments — 64 percent of the nation’s total.

“Ten industries alone accounted for over half of those employment declines,” said Horrigan, noting huge losses in jobs related to hospitality,

entertainment, travel, retail and child care.

Women have had a higher rate of job loss relative to their employment status, and in particular, minority women have been at a greater risk of labor market-related displacement and disruption. For example, as of February 2020, minority women represented less than 12 percent of employment; they accounted for nearly 21 percent of the people who lost jobs between February and April 2020.

“This is a really important lesson in terms of who got hurt by the pandemic,” Horrigan said.

Bouncing back for many displaced workers has not been easy.

As of June 2021, more than 42

percent of the nation’s population of jobless workers were “long-term unemployed.” This means they had been out of work and searching for a job for 27 weeks or longer.

“The labor market is changing in terms of skill requirements, automation,” Horrigan said. “These [long-term unemployed] are the folks who are going to have the hardest, long-term problems in the labor market.”

Minorities make up a disproportionate share of the nation’s long-term unemployed: 23.9 percent and 17.1 percent for minority males and females, respectively, as of May.

Horrigan suggested that policymakers also pay close attention to trends in the “near unemployed”: individuals who have been laid off, either temporarily or permanently, but are not yet searching for work.

This group is considered out of the labor force and not counted as unemployed.

“[Some] are coming back in,” he said, “or we hope they are coming back in.”

As of June 2021, nearly 7 million individuals who were out of the labor force reported that they wanted a job now. But they cited various factors — child care, family responsibilities, transportation, etc. — for not seeking work.

Among this group of the “hidden” or “near” unemployed, there is a



Wisconsin Rep. Robert Wittke, pictured here at the MLC Annual Meeting, is one of three officers of the MLC Economic Development Committee. He is a co-chair along with Illinois Sen. Linda Holmes. The vice chair is Indiana Rep. Ethan Manning. (photo: Johnny Sundby)

disproportionate share of females without a college degree as well as minority females.

It is unknown how many of these workers will remain out of the labor force or for how long, Horrigan said. He urged legislators to focus on strategies that help bring them back to the workplace.

Laura Tomaka is CSG Midwest staff liaison to the MLC Economic Development Committee.

RATIO OF EMPLOYMENT TO TOTAL POPULATION AMONG PEOPLE WITHOUT A BACHELOR'S DEGREE		
	February 2020	May 2021
White, non-Hispanic males	60.1%	57.7%
Minority males	62.7%	60.2%
White, non-Hispanic females	47.4%	44.8%
Minority females	51.1%	46.4%
Source: W.E. Upjohn Institute (using data from the U.S. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)		

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY

With more jobs requiring occupational licenses, states look to remove obstacles for formerly incarcerated

by Mitch Arvidson (*marvidson@csg.org*)

Sixty years ago, about one in 20 jobs required an occupational license. Today, it’s one in four.

That trend has closed many employment and career opportunities for individuals with a criminal record because of another figure — 13,000, the approximate number of provisions in state law that serve as barriers to licensure, according to the National Inventory of Collateral Consequences of Conviction.

As lawmakers learned in July at a session of the Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting, states have begun to chip away at those barriers. These fair-chance licensing reforms have several objectives: Give individuals a greater chance at re-entry success, make them less likely to reoffend, and meet a state’s workforce needs.

Organized by the MLC’s Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee, the session featured presentations by Josh Gaines and Korey Johnson of The Council of State Governments’ Justice Center and Adam Diersing of the CSG Center of Innovation. Together, they briefed lawmakers on different ways to remove barriers to licensure.

For instance, Minnesota and other states have determined that certain low-level offenses do not pose a public



North Dakota Rep. Shannon Roers Jones helps lead the MLC Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee as its co-chair. The committee’s two other officers are Illinois Sen. Robert Peters, co-chair, and Nebraska Sen. John McCollister, vice chair. (photo: Johnny Sundby)

safety risk. They now broadly prohibit such offenses from being considered in licensing applications.

In states such as Indiana, Kansas and Ohio, after a certain period of conviction-free years, individuals are less likely to have their criminal records stand in the way of securing a license. This is because of laws that reflect what the data show about the likelihood of reoffense: it declines significantly as more and more time passes from when the conviction occurred.

Another policy idea is to enact

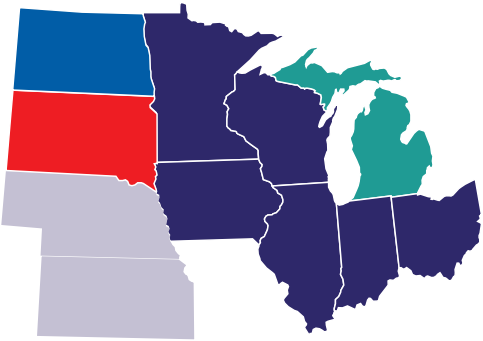
procedural protections at the back end of the licensing process. North Dakota and Ohio are among eight states that require a written explanation of specific reasons for conviction-based denials. This provides applicants with a record for challenge or appeal, and informs them of possible remedies. It also ensures that licensing bodies are properly applying the law.

On the front end, states can inform applicants about what licenses are possible. Indiana, Iowa, Nebraska, Ohio and Wisconsin provide pre-application determinations letting individuals know if their criminal records are disqualifying.

The hope is that these policy changes improve employment outcomes. According to the Prison Policy Initiative, 27 percent of formerly incarcerated individuals are unemployed. Figures are even higher for women and people of color. Formerly incarcerated Black women, for example, have a jobless rate of nearly 44 percent; that compares to 6 percent for Black women in the general population.

Mitch Arvidson is CSG Midwest staff liaison to the MLC Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee.

‘FAIR LICENSING’ PROVISIONS IN MIDWEST



- Fully implemented** explicit ban on consideration of pardoned, sealed and expunged records as well as requirement that applicants and their convictions get individualized consideration
- Fully implemented** explicit ban on consideration of pardoned, sealed and expunged records; **partially implemented** requirement that applicants and their convictions get individualized consideration
- Partially implemented** explicit ban on consideration of pardoned, sealed and expunged records; **fully implemented** requirement that applicants and their convictions get individualized consideration
- Partially implemented** explicit ban on consideration of pardoned, sealed and expunged records as well as requirement that applicants and their convictions get individualized consideration
- Partially implemented** explicit ban on consideration of pardoned, sealed and expunged records

Source: CSG Justice Center, Josh Gaines and Korey Johnson

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Addressing rise in mental health needs, rebuilding public health systems loom as big challenges for states

by Jon Davis (jdavis@csg.org)

Amid hopes that the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic is behind the Midwest, legislators heard from two policy experts in July who stressed the need for new investments in mental health and public health systems.

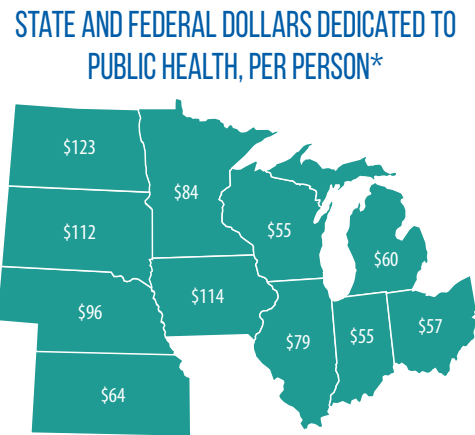
“[The] mental health tsunami is already upon us,” Debbie Plotnick, vice president for state and federal advocacy at Mental Health America, said during the Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting. The session was sponsored by the MLC Health & Human Services Committee.

Since April 2014, Plotnick’s organization has conducted 10 million online screenings. This early-identification tool is for individuals potentially in need of help for conditions such as depression and anxiety (the conditions for which people most commonly sought screenings). The COVID-19 pandemic led to a spike in those seeking assistance, and the screening results showed that the pandemic had a profound, negative effect on the nation’s mental health.

Since 2014, 72 percent of the people seeking screenings were women, Plotnick said, and more than 63 percent were people ages 25 or younger. In particular, young people between the ages of 11 and 17 are experiencing high levels of depression and anxiety.

“What we’re finding is that nearly half of young people who are coming to Mental Health America are expressing thoughts of suicide every day,” Plotnick said.

One policy response for states: Invest more in school-based mental health. Such a strategy can help reach young



Source: United Health Foundation, America's Health Rankings

people early on, avert a crisis and improve longer-term outcomes, Plotnick said. For example, about 70 percent of youths in state juvenile justice systems have a diagnosable mental health disorder, as do 64 percent of state and local jail populations.

Many new school-based initiatives are underway in the Midwest.

In Ohio, lawmakers have made a \$675 million funding commitment in their two-year budget for schools to provide nonacademic, wraparound services to students. The most common service being provided is mental health. Minnesota, meanwhile, funds one of the longest-running, school-based programs in the country. There, mental-health practitioners partner with local districts and come to the schools to provide direct care and treatment, assessments of student needs, and staff training.

During the MLC session, Plotnick recommended that states consider policies that replace police officers in schools with counselors. Her other ideas included:

- Ensure that recent gains in telehealth become permanent. “What we’ve learned

from the pandemic is that telehealth is a tremendous tool,” she said. Options for states include allowing telehealth in programs such as Medicaid or requiring payments for this type of service by private insurers. This year, South Dakota became one of the first U.S. states to pass a law (SB 96) on telehealth; it made temporary rule changes from the pandemic permanent.

- Fund community-based, mobile mental health crisis teams that can respond to emergencies.
- Expand Medicaid coverage for new moms to 12 months after the birth of a child. In April, Illinois became the first state to secure a federal waiver for this kind of extension. (Coverage typically only extends to 60 days postpartum.)
- Increase the availability of mental health screening programs, especially for at-risk youths.
- Tap federal funds under the Families First Prevention Services Act to keep at-risk families together by providing services for mental health and substance-use disorders.

ACTION ON PUBLIC HEALTH

The pandemic also illustrated the danger of continued inaction in rebuilding public health systems, Sandra Melstad, a public health consultant and owner of South Dakota-based SLM Consulting, LLC, told legislators.

“If you’re an elected official, you’re part of the public health system,” she said.

Less than 3 percent of the \$3.6 trillion spent annually on health is directed to public health and disease prevention, she said, and prevention is being funded at the same level as in 2001 —



Iowa Rep. Shannon Lundgren, co-chair of the MLC Health & Human Services Committee, speaks at a committee-sponsored session in July. The committee’s three-officer team also includes Minnesota Rep. Jennifer Schultz, co-chair, and Michigan Rep. Bronna Kahle, vice chair. (photo: Johnny Sundby)

an effective cut of 23 percent when inflation is considered.

She pointed to several consequences of this underfunding: shortages in public health workforces, and a lack of access to resources that help with disease prevention and preparedness.

According to Melstad, the pandemic also shed light on continuing public health inequities, an issue that demands legislators take a broader look at the many social determinants of health — and then address them.

She said other priorities for states should include strengthening the public health infrastructure and workforce capacity by investing in technologies that allow better tracking of future pandemics, as well as the prevention of chronic diseases, substance misuse and suicide.

Jon Davis is CSG Midwest staff liaison to the MLC Health & Human Services Committee.

MIDWEST-CANADA RELATIONS

The case for ‘ally shoring’: Legislators hear plan for rewiring supply chains to make them more resilient

by Tim Anderson (tanderson@csg.org)

Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, a long-standing, but overlooked, threat to U.S. economic, health and national security was laid bare.

“We realized that our dependence on critical supply chains often led back to China,” Elaine Dezenski, a senior advisor to the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, said in July during a presentation at the Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting.

That was most immediately felt because of an inadequate supply of personal protective equipment. “We were not the first in line to receive PPE,” Dezenski said.

And these supply-chain vulnerabilities extend to many other areas.

Take, for example, the manufacturing of semiconductors, a necessary component of electronic devices. They are part of the electric grid and telecommunications systems, and are needed to make everything from new cars to refrigerators to fighter jets.

Since 1990, the U.S. share of global

semiconductor production has slipped from 37 percent to 12 percent, according to a June report of the White House.

The same report noted that China controls an estimated 55 percent of the capacity to mine rare-earth metals (used to make batteries, engines, defense equipment, etc.), as well as 85 percent of refining capacity.

The pandemic was a call to action, but John Austin, director of the Michigan Economic Center, warned policymakers to avoid the temptation of embarking on a go-it-alone strategy of “reshoring.”

Austin and Dezenski said a better path forward is “ally shoring.” First, identify products and economic sectors where domestic manufacturing is needed to protect national security and provide good-paying jobs. Next, develop secure supply chains for these products with countries that share democratic values



Ohio House Speaker Bob Cupp and Michigan Sen. Jim Stamas serve as co-chair and co-vice chair, respectively, of the MLC Midwest-Canada Relations Committee. The committee’s two other officers are Manitoba Minister Kelvin Goertzen, co-chair, and Ontario MPP Percy Hatfield, co-vice chair. (photo: Johnny Sundby)

and are committed to rules-based trade.

“It will make our supply chains more reliable, resilient and predictable,” Dezenski said.

Ally shoring also builds on a strength of the economic relationship between the United States and Canada, Austin said: The two countries don’t so much trade together, as make things together.

“Fifty percent [of the activity] is in so-called intermediate goods, the component parts or pieces of a larger

puzzle or product,” Austin said. “So we really are co-producing.”

The MLC’s Midwest-Canada Relations Committee organized this session on ally shoring at the Annual Meeting.

This binational committee has long served as a forum for state and provincial legislators to discuss trade issues and to provide a voice for the Midwest. Austin said the economies of this region’s states and provinces already are “tightly wound” and “interdependent,” and have much to gain from what he called a “rewiring” of critical supply chains.

“We want to keep doing business with China and everybody else, but not in areas where it is detrimental to our interests and our allies’ interests,” Austin said.

He recommended that legislators learn about vulnerabilities in their own jurisdictions, and then advocate for necessary changes in trade policy. “The pressure to act is going to come from the state level,” Austin said.

Tim Anderson is CSG Midwest publications manager.

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

Legislators explore promise of career and technical education, as well as funding options for states

by Carolyn Orr (carolyn@strawridgefarm.us)

During the 2018-'19 school year, more than 750,000 students in the Midwest chose an academic path that they hoped would also start them on a successful career journey.

One of the most popular tracts chosen by these career and technical education (CTE) students: agriculture, an industry that is critical to many of the region's communities and that provides a diverse mix of job opportunities.

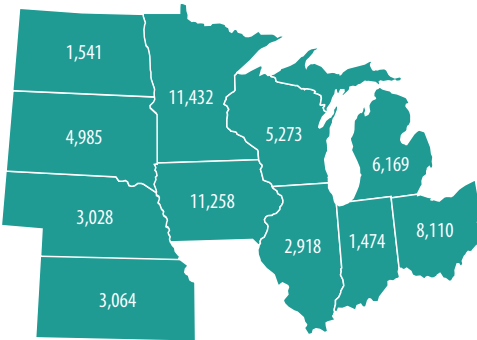
"CTE programs are reflective of local communities' industries and needs, from corn and hogs in rural Iowa to food production in the Twin Cities of Minnesota to fisheries in northern Wisconsin," Laura Hasselquist, an assistant professor of agricultural education at South Dakota State University, said during a July session of the Midwestern Legislative Conference.

Along with agriculture, the other four most popular CTE career tracts in the Midwest are health care, business, human services, arts and information technology.

Local, state and federal funds are used to support this education model, which is for all ages but is perhaps most often associated as an alternative for high school students.

According to Hasselquist, graduation

OF STUDENTS INVOLVED IN AGRICULTURE-FOCUSED CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS (2018-'19)



Source: U.S. Department of Education

rates are higher, and dropout rates lower, among these students.

"Part of the reason [why] is that CTE provides students with the opportunity to apply lessons learned in other classes to real-world settings," she said. "This reinforces the academic lessons and makes them stick."

The funding of CTE can be just as varied as the programs themselves.

According to a 2014 U.S. Department of Education study, some states fund local programs out of general state-aid formulas, but there is no specific earmark for CTE. Other states have student- or cost-based formulas that set aside funds for CTE programming.

A third model is to dedicate money for area-wide CTE centers that support students in multiple school districts.

Mark Pogliano, principal and CTE director of the Jackson Career Center in Michigan, discussed with legislators how these varying funding methods are used in his home state.

While all of the CTE programs rely on state and federal funding, he said, 33 of Michigan's school districts have a portion of their property taxes dedicated to vocational education.

The Jackson Area Career Center, for example, oversees a program that receives \$12 million a year from the local millage tax. This region of the state has one central career center that serves 12 local districts and offers a centralized CTE program.

In other parts of the state, school districts work together but do not have a centralized CTE center. Instead, participating schools house specific CTE programs. A third option is for individual schools and districts to have stand-alone CTE programs of their own.

Regardless of the model, Pogliano said, state support is critical. He



Minnesota Rep. Paul Anderson addresses fellow Midwestern legislators as Illinois Rep. Norine Hammond looks on. Anderson and Hammond are co-chairs of the MLC Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee meeting. The committee's co-vice chairs are Saskatchewan MLA Steven Bonk and Kansas Sen. Marci Francisco. (photo: Johnny Sundby)

encouraged legislators to work toward implementing sustainable funding models that encourage growth in CTE programs.

This July session was organized by three MLC committees: Agriculture & Natural Resources, Economic Development and Education.

Carolyn Orr is CSG Midwest staff liaison to the MLC Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee.

THANK YOU TO THE SPONSORS OF THE 2021 MLC ANNUAL MEETING

The Midwestern Legislative Conference gratefully acknowledges these contributors for their generous support.

PLATINUM CONTRIBUTOR (\$20,000-\$34,999)

» South Dakota's Electric Utility Companies

Black Hills Energy
MidAmerican Energy
Montana Dakota Utilities

NorthWestern Energy
Otter Tail Power Company
Xcel Energy

GOLD CONTRIBUTORS (\$10,000-\$19,999)

- » AT&T*
- » Black Hills Energy
- » BNSF Railway
- » Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan)
- » Johnson & Johnson*
- » M.G. Oil Company
- » Reynolds American
- » South Dakota Bankers Association (SBDA)
- » TC Energy

SILVER CONTRIBUTORS (\$5,000-\$9,999)

- » 3M*
- » AARP South Dakota
- » Altria*
- » Anheuser-Busch Companies
- » Archer Daniels Midland*
- » Cargill*
- » Comcast*
- » Energy Transfer LP
- » Farm Credit Services of America
- » First PREMIER Bank
- » Genentech
- » Government of Canada
- » Greater Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce
- » Heartland Consumers Power District
- » Independent Insurance Agents of South Dakota
- » Lake Area Technical College and Watertown Development Company
- » McLane Company, Inc.*
- » Michigan Restaurant & Lodging Association
- » Missouri River Energy Services
- » Moyle Petroleum Company
- » Nutrien
- » PhRMA*
- » POET LLC
- » Rapid City, Pierre & Eastern Railroad
- » Renewable Energy Group*
- » South Dakota Education Association
- » South Dakota Rural Electric Association
- » South Dakota Telecommunications Association
- » State Farm
- » State Government Affairs Council
- » United Parcel Service
- » Wellmark South Dakota

BRONZE CONTRIBUTORS (\$3,500-\$4,999)

- » AAA - The Auto Club Group
- » Agtegra Cooperative
- » American Chemistry Council*
- » Amway*
- » Avera Health
- » Bayer*
- » CHS
- » Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
- » Corteva Agriscience
- » CropLife America – RISE
- » Dairyland Power Cooperative
- » Elevate Rapid City
- » General Motors
- » Harms Oil Company
- » International Paper*
- » Lake Trust
- » Michigan Association of Health Plans
- » Microsoft*
- » Monument Health
- » South Dakota Beer Distributors Association
- » South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- » South Dakota Retailers Association
- » Wells Fargo & Company*
- » West River Electric Association

FRIEND (\$1,000-\$3,499)

- » A.H. Meyer & Sons Inc.
- » Delta Dental of South Dakota
- » DeSmet Farm Mutual Insurance Company of South Dakota
- » Glacial Lakes Energy, LLC
- » Midco
- » Molded Fiber Glass Companies / South Dakota
- » Security First Bank
- » South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations
- » South Dakota Biotech
- » South Dakota Farm Bureau Federation
- » South Dakota Municipal Electric Association
- » South Dakota Pork Producers Council
- » South Dakota Realtors
- » Stanford M. Adelstein
- » Valley Queen Cheese
- » Visit Rapid City
- » Western Dakota Technical College

IN-KIND

- » NewsCenter 1 Media Group
- » University of South Dakota

*Denotes that the 2021 MLC Annual Meeting contributor is also a CSG Associate.

HISTORIAN RONALD WHITE: LINCOLN WAS A MAN OF HIS TIME, WITH A WISDOM FOR TODAY’S POLITICAL AGE

A nation riven with strife and seemingly split into two irreconcilable halves, each claiming to be the “real” America; what is a legislator in such days to do? To whom can he or she turn for inspiration? Acclaimed historian and best-selling author Ronald C. White suggests one of the nation’s first presidents from the Midwest, Abraham Lincoln.

“He can’t help us with climate change, he can’t tell presidents what to do about Afghanistan,” White said in a featured presentation in July at the Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting. “But his words, ideas and values stretch across time.”

For meeting attendees, White traced that wisdom through Lincoln’s own words, from his Young Men’s Lyceum speech in January 1838 to his second inaugural address in March 1865. In the Lyceum speech, for example, Lincoln already foresaw that American democracy can only be undone by its citizens:

“At what point then is the approach of danger to be expected? I answer, if it ever reach us, it must spring up amongst us. It cannot come from abroad. If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time, or die by suicide.”

Lincoln was a man of his time — the early to mid-19th century — and should be judged by the standards of his day, not ours, White said. He became a politician before he became a lawyer, and he decided to become a great public speaker. His humility and ability to note and deal with failure, as expressed in notes for a July 1850 law lecture, are illustrative:

“I am not an accomplished lawyer. I find quite as much material for a lecture in those points where I have failed, as in those wherein I have been moderately successful. ... Discourage litigation. Persuade your neighbors to compromise whenever you can. Point out to them how the nominal winner is often the real loser — in fees, expenses, and waste of time. As a peacemaker the lawyer has a surprising opportunity of being a good man. There will still be business enough.”

“Can you imagine a modern politician/lawyer [saying likewise]?” White asked attendees before quipping, “You don’t have to answer that.” White closed with perhaps the best-known portion of Lincoln’s second inaugural address in March 1865:

“With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation’s wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.”

Words about democracy. Words of personal humility. Words of respect and compassion for others. “Lincoln’s wisdom still speaks to us today,” White said. “They’re 19th-century words, but I think we need to hear them in the 21st century.”



“His words, ideas and values stretch across time.”

Historian Ronald White on the value of today’s political leaders studying the speeches and personal letters of Abraham Lincoln

STATES PLAY CENTRAL ROLE IN POLICIES THAT CAN FOSTER MORE-INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

To make the case for policies that promote greater economic inclusion, one place to start is with the data.

And researchers at the Federal Reserve have recently made some powerful claims about the link between closing racial, ethnic and gender gaps and growing the broader economy. They looked at 15 years of U.S. Census Bureau statistics on disparities in income, number of hours worked, employment-to-population ratios and educational attainment. Their conclusion: A closing of gaps in these areas would have boosted annual, overall GDP during this time in every Midwestern state, anywhere from \$4.0 billion in **South Dakota** to \$120 billion in **Illinois**.

Tawanna Black, a featured speaker at the Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting, highlighted those findings during a presentation that urged lawmakers to think about addressing inequality across all policy areas. “Did you have an economy worth recovering? How do you know?” she asked. “Did that economy work for everybody in your state? How do you know? Did data point you in that direction?”

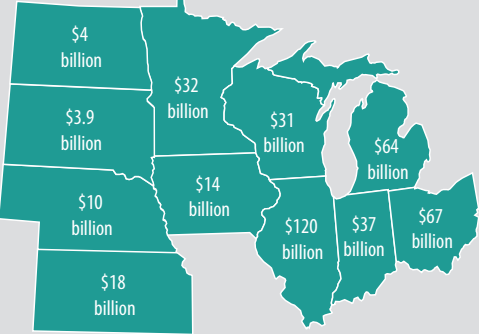
The challenges of creating an equitable economy pre-date us, but we are in a position to make things better, Black said, adding that one tool to help make informed policymaking decisions is the use of racial-equity notes for proposed legislation. Similar in intent to fiscal notes (already commonly used in legislatures) or environmental impact statements, these notes would seek to anticipate a bill’s potential impact on minority communities.

Iowa passed the nation’s first law on racial-impact statements in 2008 (HF 2393), requiring corrections-related measures to include notes on their impact to minority communities. This year, **Minnesota** legislators considered but didn’t advance HF 2297/SF 2081, which would have required the Legislative Budget Office to prepare such notes upon request by a committee chair or ranking member.

According to Black, founder and CEO of the Minnesota-based Center for Inclusion, state lawmakers can promote policies to improve access to jobs (education and transportation), human capital (increasing the number of minority-owned businesses, elected officials and corporate executive leadership) and opportunity (reducing wage and employment gaps).

Everyone, she added, should also be asking themselves hard questions: Are your business relationships equitable? Who taught you about race? Who taught them? Referencing historian Ronald C. White’s discussion of Abraham Lincoln’s wisdom, as seen in the president’s private notes (a session immediately preceding hers; see above), she asked, “What will cause you to take those private notes and make them not so private?”

SIMULATED ANNUAL GAIN IN GDP FROM CLOSING OF RACIAL, ETHNIC AND GENDER GAPS (2005-2019)



Source: Federal Reserve



Tawanna Black speaks in July at the Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting on a session examining economic revitalization and inclusion. (photo: Johnny Sundby)

FUTURIST IDENTIFIES FOUR THREATS THAT HE SAYS NEED IMMEDIATE ATTENTION FROM TODAY’S POLITICAL LEADERS

Foreign adversaries waging misinformation campaigns to divide the country. Citizens unable to agree on a shared, factual view of the world. Changes in the climate overwhelming state and local infrastructure systems. Ransomware attacks wreaking economic havoc on businesses and governments alike.

These four threats endanger stability and prosperity in what futurist Ben Hammersley called a coming era of “hyper modernity.”

“No matter how uncomfortable they are to accept, we now have to accept and work [to address] those problems,” Hammersley said in July during the keynote session of the Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting. “Any bit of energy that is left arguing against them is shameful.”

His message to legislators: Act now, because your states and provinces need your leadership and foresight. “If you’re not building systems within your states to protect people’s ability to think, if you’re not building systems to protect your digital infrastructure, if you don’t build these systems to protect your economic and environmental infrastructures, then you will lose,” he said.

These threats existed before COVID-19, and the pandemic may present what Hammersley called a “weird opportunity” for everyone, including policymakers, to reassess and reinvent how they do things and what they value. “It starts to lead people into the context of thinking about, well, can I be something else? Can we be something else?” he said. “By calling everything into question for practical reasons, the COVID pandemic has actually made everything possible in many ways.”

Some adaptive, outside-the-box thinking may be needed to address the four threats he laid out for legislators. “Every generation always describes themselves as facing the biggest problems and biggest challenges,” Hammersley said. “But I genuinely believe that we right now, over the next five or 10 years, face existential threats.”



Futurist Ben Hammersley delivers the keynote address at this year’s Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting in Rapid City. (photo: Johnny Sundby)

PROMISING CONSERVATION PROGRAMS IN OHIO, WISCONSIN HIGHLIGHTED AT MLC MEETING

» CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

caused the town of Toledo to temporarily lose its supply of drinking water due to contamination.

To address this environmental problem, changes on Ohio’s private, working agricultural lands had to be part of the solution: 85 percent of phosphorus loading into Lake Erie in Ohio comes from farms in the watershed.

As part of a larger initiative known as H2Ohio, the state is now partnering with agricultural producers in high-priority areas to spread the use of conservation practices that reduce pollution runoff.

Dorothy Pelanda, director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture, said this new initiative is unlike any other in the state’s history because of the level of funding and the commitment to employing a science-based approach.

Before reaching out to farmers, her department brought together scientists, along with leading agricultural and environmental groups, to develop a plan of action. According to Pelanda, this group explored lessons in water protection from around the world, scrutinizing various practices in agricultural conservation.

“We said to the governor, what we’re going to do is focus on seven practices that the best science and data say will retain nutrients and water on the land,” she said.

Their proposal to Gov. Mike DeWine: Pay farmers for the development of a nutrient management plan, as well as implementation of one or more of those evidence-based practices, such as planting cover crops, installing new drainage systems, or changing how fertilizers are applied.

In the first year of H2Ohio, DeWine and the legislature made \$50 million in incentives available for farmers to adopt these practices.

Just as important as the state’s commitment, Pelanda said, was securing buy-in from agriculture producers in the high-priority areas.

“I remember our first meeting in Perry County when we set up 300 chairs, and we had over 900 people show up,” she said. “From there, the number of producers showing up at the meetings was close to 1,000.

“It was a real testament to commitment to voluntary conservation.”

More than 1 million acres of land were enrolled in the program in its first year.

“We know that these [practices] work, but we need to get more acreage

“In the next few decades, global population is going to be reaching nearly 10 billion people. We’re going to have the same amount of land and water in 2050 that we have today, and we have to produce a lot more food.”

Rod Snyder, president, Farm to Market

involved,” Pelanda said. That will take a long-term investment from the legislature, as well as participation by a much larger number of farmers.

‘BRIDGE BETWEEN RURAL, URBAN’

In Minnesota, studies have shown that the net profits of agricultural operations participating in a voluntary, state-run water quality certification program are higher than those not in the program.

These findings show that conservation practices can help farmers’ bottom lines by improving land management and maximizing efficiencies (better use of fertilizers, equipment and fuel, for example).

Upfront costs, though, often are an obstacle, though.

H2Ohio recognizes that problem by paying farmers (with multi-year contracts) for their conservation commitments.

Likewise, McAleese highlighted the potential for states to broker new partnerships between municipal governments and surrounding agricultural producers.

A city’s wastewater treatment plant is a point source of pollution; farm operations are nonpoint sources. The former must comply with permitting regulations under the U.S. Clean Water Act, and this has traditionally meant spending money on facility improvements.

But these dollars might be better spent on addressing nonpoint sources of pollution, by having municipal governments make payments to farmers for new conservation practices.

“This is a bridge between the rural and urban communities that is

desperately needed, and it lets people take shared ownership in watersheds,” McAleese said.

If done right, these whole-watershed partnerships offer the opportunity to reduce flood risks, increase recreational opportunities, and enhance fish and wildlife habitat. “Those are things you just don’t get from a simple plant upgrade,” McAleese said.

In Wisconsin, the Department of Natural Resources already has this kind of adaptive-management program in place. (The state also has a separate, water-quality trading program.) According to McAleese, local initiatives also are underway in Illinois and Iowa.

He said another option for states is to assist agriculture producers themselves in leading local conservation programs.

“A lot of research, and common sense, suggests that farmers learn best from farmers,” McAleese said.

In Wisconsin, the state’s five-year-old Producer-Led Watershed Protection Program provides grants to groups of farmers who work together and lead local efforts to control nonpoint source pollution in a single watershed.

Overseen by the Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection, the program provided a total of \$750,000 to 27 different farmer-led groups in 2020.

“It’s got a limited bureaucracy, it’s got simple reporting, and it’s flexible and able to adapt to local needs and interests,” McAleese said.

SHRINKING FARMS’ FOOTPRINTS

Rod Snyder, president of Field to Market: The Alliance for Shared Agriculture, shared with legislators eight indicators that his organization uses to measure sustainability and conservation in U.S. commodity crop production.

They include comparisons over time of energy, land and water use; impacts on water quality; biodiversity; levels of greenhouse gas emissions; and soil health.

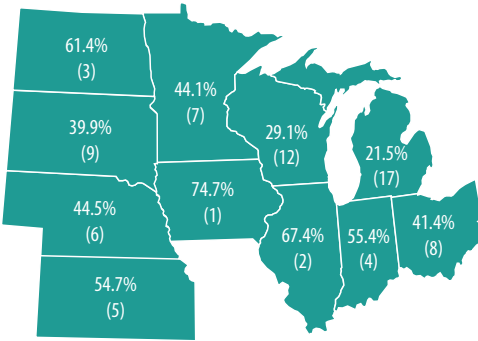
Analyses of farm operations show a “shrinking footprint in terms of environmental impact per unit of production,” he said. That is because of changes in agricultural practices that led to improvements in conservation.

Yet much more is going to be asked of farmers in the future.

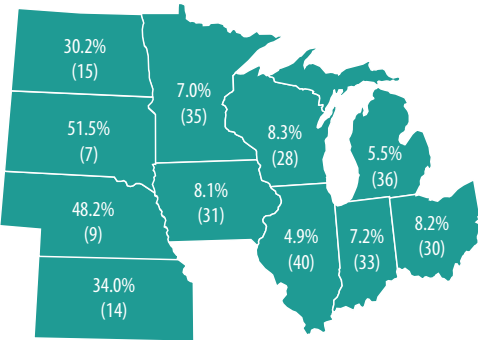
“In the next few decades, global population is going to be reaching nearly 10 billion people,” Snyder said. “We’re going to have the same amount of land



% OF TOTAL ACREAGE IN STATE USED AS CROPLAND (U.S. RANK IN PARENTHESES)



% OF TOTAL ACREAGE IN STATE USED AS GRASSLAND, PASTURE AND RANGE (U.S. RANK IN PARENTHESES)



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service

and water in 2050 that we have today, and we have to produce a lot more food.”

Consumers already have taken a greater interest in how their food is being produced, and particularly in the area of climate change, companies are publicly making new commitments around sustainability.

The result will be more market-based pressures on farmers to reduce their climate footprints.

“We all know that for farmers, over the last few years, the margins [of profitability] have been incredibly thin,” Snyder said.

“We can’t expect them to make changes in practices that they can’t afford to implement. So how can the supply chain as well as state and federal governments help close that gap and make it financially feasible?”

South Dakota Senate Majority Leader Gary Cammack has chosen agriculture conservation as the focus of his Midwestern Legislative Conference Chair’s Initiative for 2021. A series of articles is appearing in *Stateline Midwest* this year in support of this initiative.



Dorothy Pelanda, director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture, addresses attendees of the Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting during a July session on land conservation and sustainability in agriculture. South Dakota Sen. Gary Cammack has made these issues the focus of his 2021 MLC Chair’s Initiative. Pelanda discussed her state’s H2Ohio plan, part of which includes new partnerships between the state of Ohio and agriculture producers to spread the use of practices that prevent pollution runoff. (photo: Johnny Sundby)



PROFILE: KANSAS SENATOR, AND MLC VICE CHAIR, CAROLYN MCGINN

From the family farm to a place in leadership: Longtime legislator values chance to ‘deepen my world’ by bridging rural-urban divide, cultivating new relationships

by Laura Kliewer (lkiewer@csg.org)

Carolyn McGinn already knew the agriculture side of the rural-urban district that she represents. Along with her husband, Mark, she owns a family farm and raised two sons there. But the longtime legislator also has made it a point to get to know people in the largely Black and Hispanic communities that she represents in Wichita, the largest city in her home state of Kansas.

She built relationships of trust. Constituents became friends. And that experience has deeply impacted McGinn, inside and outside her work in the Legislature.

“Individually, I think that is one of the biggest blessings I ever received in my life,” she says. “I have a lot of good friends in those communities, and I’ve learned a great deal from them.”

That relationship-building began decades ago, first as a county commissioner and then as a state senator. She was first elected to the Legislature in 2004, and along with being a longtime leader on fiscal issues, she has made many rural-urban issues a top priority — landowner rights, water quality and quantity, and land development.

“Urban folks and rural folks want the same thing,” she says. “We want clean water and we want to sustain our land for future generations.”

McGinn is now vice chair of The Council of State Governments’ Midwestern Legislative Conference, the nonpartisan association of legislators from 11 U.S. states and four Canadian provinces. Next year, as MLC chair, she will welcome those legislators to her home state and community. The MLC Annual Meeting will be held July 10-13 in Wichita.

In a recent interview with CSG Midwest, Sen. McGinn reflected on her legislative career to date and looked ahead to her year as chair of the MLC. Here are excerpts.

Q What issues initially led you to run for the Legislature?

A I wanted local government to be respected. I noticed as a county commissioner that we would take legislation and issues we had vetted at the local level to Topeka. You get to Topeka, and legislators had either a distrust of local government or they thought they had a better idea. I am someone who believes that local control is best, as it is closest to the people.

And it didn’t take me long to understand that investing in mental health prevention and assistance pays back a lot more than if you don’t. Once you help the individual, you



BIO-SKETCH: KANSAS SEN. CAROLYN MCGINN

- ✓ first elected to Kansas Senate in 2004
- ✓ serves as chair of Senate Committee on Local Government
- ✓ served as a Sedgwick County commissioner from 1998 to 2004
- ✓ is a 2010 graduate of The Council of State Governments’ Henry Toll Fellowship Program
- ✓ elected by fellow legislators from region to serve as chair of CSG’s Midwestern Legislative Conference in 2022
- ✓ lives on her family farm outside the city of Sedgwick; she and her husband, Mark, have two adult sons

“People seem to label you as one thing or another. What they don’t seem to realize, because of the lack of conversation, is you have more things in common than you realize.”

also help the whole family. You save your community money because [individuals] are not just revolving through the emergency room or your local county jail.

Those two issues, along with water quality and quantity, are something I keep an eye on.

Q How has serving in the Legislature changed or helped you?

A Starting as a farm wife, to having a family, to winning a county seat that no one thought was possible, I met so many great people in the community — whether they were in the neighborhood or community leaders. It expanded my world. Then I went to being a state senator, and I met so many great people that taught me many things over the years across the state. I also love being involved in CSG and the MLC because of the people I meet outside the state who have similar issues to Kansas who are trying to solve problems for their constituents and states.

My world has deepened and grown through the opportunities I have had to meet people of diverse backgrounds.

Q What has been your most important or satisfying legislative accomplishment?

A The year COVID hit, I was trusted [by legislative leadership] to

chair the Transportation Task Force and to develop our 10-year plan. ... We came back for one final week before the Legislature was going to adjourn because of COVID. The bill was overwhelmingly approved and passed.

It was an area outside of my normal expertise, but the seed was planted when I was a county commissioner. I had seen how important infrastructure was. I got to watch a transportation plan when I was a county commissioner and early on in my Senate career.

But this time I was given the opportunity to actually carry the bill. We are right now seeing the results all over the state. It is something I can appreciate — the safety that it provides all our citizens and people who travel through our state.

We put more into public transportation and pedestrian/biking. We also believe there is a great excitement with Amtrak. [Editor’s Note: Amtrak plans to extend service from Oklahoma City to Wichita and Newton, Kan.]

Every two years, projects will be re-assessed. In the past, it was more a 10-year scale plan: projects were announced and that was it.

Q What do you view as some of today’s important challenges to overcome as a legislator?

A We have made ourselves into identified groups, rather than individuals who represent different parts of the state and have similar goals. There is a lack of trust and interpersonal

conversation, working toward solutions for all. People seem to label you as one thing or another. What they don’t seem to realize, because of the lack of conversation, is you have more things in common than you realize. Sometimes we have to put those differences aside and work on those things that we have in common.

Q How has your involvement with CSG and the MLC impacted your legislative service?

A It certainly helped me grow as an individual and as a public servant. Having an opportunity to network with people from other states, and not only that — Canada — helps me look at issues differently. You can’t learn it all. And sometimes there are things you may have learned 10 or 20 years ago that you get reminded of. Having that conversation and that crew of people to network with I think helps all legislative leaders in our states.

Q As incoming MLC Chair, what are you looking forward to doing in 2022?

A Hosting all my MLC colleagues in Wichita, the largest city in Kansas. The MLC Annual Meeting hasn’t been held there in 50 years. I’m ready to show off Wichita, and not just the things that make the city beautiful, but what makes our economy tick. We’re the “air capital of the world.” ... When Air Force One has a problem, they bring it to Wichita to fix it.

FIRST PERSON: STATES CAN HELP SOLVE CASES OF MISSING, MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Law in South Dakota will improve coordination, provide investigation resources



by South Dakota Rep. Peri Pourier
(Peri.Pourier@sdlegislature.gov)

There is a crisis taking place right before our eyes, but it often goes unseen throughout the country. Approximately 1,500 American Indian and Alaska Native missing persons have been entered into the National Crime Information Center, and about 2,700 cases of murder and non-negligent homicide offenses have been reported to the federal government's Uniform Crime Reporting Program.

Here in South Dakota, of the 99 missing persons statewide, 66 are Indigenous persons.

Breaking down the data further, you begin to see that those missing individuals are mostly women and children — from urban and rural areas, both on and off Indian reservation lands. In many cases, these individuals are the victims of human trafficking.

But unless you are from a tribal community or have a relative from one, or if you know someone who is an American Indian, you may be unaware of the crisis.

These cases are unique because they can fall under multiple law enforcement jurisdictions and occur in isolated areas of our state. Often, these cases fall through the cracks between jurisdictions due to a lack of resources and coordination.

Predators exploit these gaps and use them to their advantage.

BIPARTISAN, TRIBAL CALL TO ACT

During our 2021 legislative session in South Dakota, I introduced HB 1199, an act to establish the Office of Liaison for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons within our state attorney general's office.

The bill was signed into law in March.

With this new office in place, our state will have a full-time specialist on missing

persons to assist and coordinate with the U.S. attorney's office, the U.S. Department of Justice, and state and tribal law enforcement agencies. Additionally, this specialist will coordinate and provide training for locating missing and murdered Indigenous persons.

HB 1199 also requires all agencies in South Dakota to cooperate with the attorney general's office, undergo any required training and report to the liaison as necessary.

I worked with the attorney general's office on this bill and, ultimately, it supported the measure. This legislation also had strong support from all nine federally recognized tribes that have geographic boundaries within South Dakota.

This was a historic piece of legislation in that the tribes were coming to the state to show support for this important issue. Further, the tribes expressed to the Legislature that they wanted to commit support for this proposed office by helping the state secure federal funding for it.

In a legislature where Republicans have strong majorities, it's a difficult feat for any Democrat to get his or her legislation to the governor's desk for signing.

My first try at passing this kind of measure occurred in 2019, during my

first term in the House. HB 1237 and HB 1238 required the state to collect data and require training on cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women (MMIW). These bills were merged into SB 164, which became law. In 2020, SB 27 passed unanimously and became law. It required the state attorney general to establish an MMIW data clearinghouse.

Those steps helped set the stage for legislative success this year.

HB 1199 passed the House State Affairs Committee on a 9-4 vote and, one day later, was approved by the full House (57-12). In the Senate, it passed out of the Judiciary Committee unanimously, and was then placed on the consent calendar and sent to Gov. Kristi Noem for signing.

Although the world of politics can be tricky, my strategy was to let the data

and people themselves — the missing women and children — tell the story.

Our most vulnerable population must stay on our radar. This issue must not be overlooked. HB 1199 is an important step toward finding a solution to human trafficking among Indigenous persons.

If this process taught me one thing, it's the value of relationship-building — not only across the aisle, but also across tribal nations. We all must be at the table actively looking for solutions through meaningful conversations and honest dialogue.

Rep. Peri Pourier has been a member of the South Dakota House since 2019. She is in the class of 2021 for CSG Midwest's Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development.

EXAMPLES OF MIDWEST'S RESPONSE TO CASES OF MISSING, MURDERED INDIGENOUS PERSONS



As part of this year's omnibus budget bill on public safety (HF 63), the **Minnesota** Legislature is appropriating \$500,000 each of the next two years to establish and maintain an Office of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives. This office will provide assistance to local and tribal law enforcement agencies on active cases, conduct case reviews, and track and collect relevant data.



Nebraska's LB 154, passed in 2019, requires the State Patrol to study the scope of the problem of missing Native American women and children in that state. Legislators also charged the state agency with forging new partnerships among tribal and non-tribal law enforcement agencies to improve reporting and investigations. The State Patrol's study found that a disproportionate number of Nebraska's reported missing persons are Native American. (The share of Native Americans missing is 3.1 times larger than their share of the state's population).



Two years ago, **North Dakota** legislators required creation of a centralized, statewide repository to report and track missing persons. One intent of the new law (HB 1313) is to better track and share information on missing Indigenous people in the state. The repository includes information on the tribal membership of missing persons.



South Dakota is establishing a new Office of Liaison for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons within the state attorney general's office as the result of this year's passage of HB 1199 (see main article). The office will provide assistance to local law enforcement on cases related to missing or murdered Indigenous persons, as well as pursue new opportunities for federal funding.



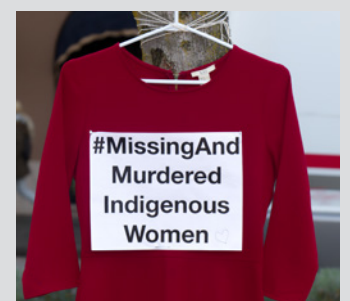
Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul has formed a task force of tribal leaders, state legislators and others to help fight the abduction, homicide, violence and trafficking of Indigenous women. It is examining the factors that contribute to missing and murdered Indigenous women; the role of social service organizations in prevention and response; and the policies need to improve data collection, reporting and investigations.

MISSING AND MURDERED UNIT ESTABLISHED AT FEDERAL LEVEL, WITH OFFICES IN MINNESOTA AND SOUTH DAKOTA

In April, a Missing and Murdered Unit was established within the U.S. Department of Interior to coordinate the work of various federal agencies to solve cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women. It will help gather intelligence on active cases, review and prioritize cases, develop plans to guide investigators, and identify outside resources.

Two years ago, under an executive order of President Donald Trump, a Task Force on Missing and Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives was formed. One of its recommendations was to create this new Missing and Murdered Unit. Offices have been (or will be) established in seven locations nationwide, including in Minnesota and South Dakota.

In the U.S. Congress, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2021 (HR 1620) calls for increased efforts to solve cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women. The U.S. House passed HR 1620 in March.



SUBMISSIONS WELCOME

This page is designed to be a forum for legislators and constitutional officers. The opinions expressed on this page do not reflect those of The Council of State Governments or the Midwestern Legislative Conference. Responses to any FirstPerson article are welcome, as are pieces written on other topics. For more information, contact Tim Anderson at 630.925.1922 or tanderson@csg.org.

RESOLUTIONS ON FOOD LABELING, U.S.-CANADA BORDER, CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE, FEDERALISM AND TAIWAN ADOPTED BY MIDWEST’S LEGISLATORS

The Midwestern Legislative Conference considers resolutions introduced by individual lawmakers as well as its seven interstate, binational policy committees.

At the MLC Annual Meeting, a bipartisan Resolutions Committee (led this year by Kansas Sen. Carolyn McGinn, first vice chair of the MLC) reviews and votes on these resolutions. Once passed by this committee, the resolutions are voted on by the full MLC on the final day of the meeting.

Using this process, the MLC adopted five policy resolutions in July at its Annual Meeting. Here is a summary of each of them.

PUSH FOR TRUTH IN FOOD LABELING

Sponsored by the MLC Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee, this resolution supports passage by the U.S. Congress of SB 1346, a bill that would require federal enforcement against misbranded milk alternatives. The MLC is also urging state legislatures to consider truth-in-food-labeling proposals of their own in order to inform consumers and help the Midwest’s animal-agriculture producers.

INTENSIFY EFFORTS TO CURB CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

This second resolution of the MLC Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee calls on Midwestern states to partner with the federal government on new efforts to stop the spread of chronic wasting disease. It also recommends a ban on the importation of any part of the spinal column of deer carcasses, unless delivered directly to a licensed meat processor or licensed taxidermist.

REOPEN THE U.S.-CANADA BORDER

Legislators called for the U.S.-Canada border to be opened to fully vaccinated individuals. Less than a week after passage of this resolution, Canada Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced plans for such a reopening (starting Aug. 9).

This MLC resolution was introduced by a trio of North Dakota legislators: Reps. Dennis Johnson and David Monson and Sen. Janne Myrdal. They noted in the resolution that “the United States and Canada have enjoyed the most prosperous relationship in the world, amounting to over a trillion dollars in trade and investment annually.”

UPHOLD THE TENETS OF FEDERALISM

North Dakota House Speaker Kim Koppelman, Michigan Sen. Ken Horn, North Dakota Sen. Dick Dever and North Dakota Rep. Bernie Satrom introduced this resolution affirming the “primacy of state authority with respect to powers not expressly delegated to the federal government.”

It urges federal authorities to respect the constitutional limits on federal power and the appropriate constitutional balance of powers between state and federal authorities.

SUPPORT TRADE, OTHER RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN

In this resolution introduced by South Dakota Rep. Ernie Otten, the MLC endorses Taiwan’s efforts to secure the signing of a bilateral trade agreement and encourages Taiwan’s continued participation in international organizations.

NEW SLATE OF LAWMAKERS CHOSEN TO LEAD MIDWESTERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE ON FINAL DAY OF GROUP’S ANNUAL MEETING

Four veteran state legislators from this region have been chosen by their peers to lead the Midwestern Legislative Conference. The election of this new officer team occurred on July 14, the final day of the MLC Annual Meeting in Rapid City, S.D. These legislators will officially begin their new MLC duties later this year.

• Joining the four-member MLC officer team for the first time is Ohio Sen. **Bill Reineke**. He will be the new second vice chair and is in line to be MLC chair in 2024, the same year his home state hosts the Annual Meeting.



Reineke is in his first term in the Ohio Senate and previously served three terms in the state House. He is a 2016 graduate of the MLC’s Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development.

• Kansas Sen. **Carolyn McGinn** will be the MLC chair in 2022. She has been a member of the Kansas Legislature since 2005 and is a longtime leader on state finances. Among her duties as MLC chair: leading the work of Kansas in hosting the 2022 MLC Annual Meeting, which will be held July 10-13 in Wichita. McGinn currently is the MLC’s first vice chair.

• The MLC’s current chair is South Dakota Senate Majority Leader **Gary Cammack**. He will turn over these duties to Sen. McGinn in December and become the MLC’s immediate past chair. A member of the Legislature for nearly a decade, Cammack has been focusing on land conservation policies as his MLC Chair’s Initiative (see cover story) and led South Dakota’s hosting of this year’s Annual Meeting in Rapid City.

• Michigan Sen. **John Bizon** will be the MLC’s first vice chair in 2022. A 2017 BILLD graduate, Bizon was elected to the state Senate in 2018 after serving four years in the Michigan House. He currently serves as Senate majority whip. The MLC will meet in Michigan in 2023, when Bizon is slated to be chair.



ABOUT THE MLC AND CSG

The MLC is a nonpartisan association of all legislators in 11 states and one Canadian province: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Saskatchewan, South Dakota and Wisconsin. The Canadian provinces of Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario are affiliate members.

The Midwestern Office of The Council of State Governments provides staff support to the MLC. CSG is a national, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that champions excellence in state government by sharing innovative solutions to common problems across state borders.



Officers of the Midwestern Legislative Conference, past and present, meet this summer in Rapid City, S.D., during the MLC Annual Meeting. Pictured, from left to right, are Illinois Sen. Elgie Sims, 2019 MLC chair; Michigan Sen. Ken Horn, 2020 MLC chair; Kansas Sen. Carolyn McGinn, current MLC first vice chair; South Dakota Sen. Gary Cammack, current MLC chair; and Michigan Sen. John Bizon, current MLC second vice chair. (photo: Johnny Sundby)

PARTNERSHIP AIMS TO HELP LEGISLATORS FIND SCIENCE-, EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY SOLUTIONS

CSG’s Midwestern Legislative Conference is teaming up with Science is US to offer new programming to the region’s legislators.

The goal of this partnership is to help state policymakers utilize science and evidence to address some of the most pressing issues facing communities and states. Science is US is a foundation-supported effort that brings together a diverse group of science, engineering, industry, higher education and labor organizations.

Through this new partnership, legislators will have the chance to participate in a series

of workshops dubbed “ELEVATE.” The first event, titled “Growing the Economy,” will be a two-day workshop on Nov. 15-16 in the Twin Cities. Participants will explore issues related to cybersecurity, infrastructure and workforce expectations.

The goal of each ELEVATE workshop will be to provide participants with new tools and strategies to develop innovative, evidence-based approaches to policymaking. For information, contact Mike McCabe, director of the Midwestern Office of The Council State Governments, at mmccabe@csg.org or 630.925.1922.

MIDWESTERN LEGISLATORS AWARDED 2021 BILLD FELLOWSHIPS, WILL TAKE PART IN FIVE DAYS OF LEADERSHIP TRAINING THIS FALL IN MINNEAPOLIS

A bipartisan group of legislators from the Midwest has been selected to take part in a one-of-a-kind leadership program. The Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development is designed for legislators from this region in their first four years of service. Photos of the state and provincial legislators selected to take part in the 2021 institute can be found below.

This year's program will be held Oct. 1-5 in

Minneapolis. It will mark the 26th year in which the Midwestern Legislative Conference has offered leadership training to its members: legislators from 11 member states, one member Canadian province (Saskatchewan) and three Canadian affiliate provinces. The Midwestern Office of The Council of State Governments provides staff support to the MLC, including its BILLD program.

This year, more than 110 lawmakers applied for a

fellowship. Selections were made in June by the BILLD Steering Committee, a bipartisan group of legislators from 11 Midwestern states. Along with overseeing the application process, this MLC committee provides guidance on fundraising and development of the BILLD curriculum. Iowa Sen. Amy Sinclair and Illinois Rep. Anna Moeller serve as committee co-chairs; Michigan Rep. Ann Bollin and Kansas Rep. Jarrod Ousley are the co-vice chairs.

ILLINOIS



Sen. Ann Gillespie



Rep. Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz



Rep. Justin Slaughter

INDIANA



Rep. Bradford Barrett



Rep. Chuck Goodrich



Sen. Shelli Yoder

IOWA



Rep. Holly Brink



Sen. Adrian Dickey



Sen. Zacharia Wahls

KANSAS



Rep. John Eplee



Rep. Jason Probst



Rep. Mark Schreiber

MICHIGAN



Sen. Marshall Bullock



Rep. Sarah Lightner



Rep. Mike Mueller

MINNESOTA



Rep. Lisa Demuth



Sen. Mary Kunesh



Sen. Andrew Mathews

NEBRASKA



Sen. Tom Brandt



Sen. Megan Hunt



Sen. Terrell McKinney

NORTH DAKOTA



Rep. Jay Fisher



Rep. Zachary Ista



Sen. James Roers

OHIO



Rep. Paula Hicks-Hudson



Rep. Sharon Ray



Rep. Phillip Robinson

SASKATCHEWAN



MLA Jeremy Cockrill



MLA Alana Ross



MLA Dana Skoropad

SOUTH DAKOTA



Sen. Bryan Breitling



Rep. Linda Duba



Rep. Peri Pourier

WISCONSIN



Rep. Rachael Cabral-Guevara



Rep. Jesse James



Rep. Sara Rodriguez

MANITOBA



MLA Josh Guenter

BILLD Steering Committee Officers | Co-Chairs: Illinois Rep. Anna Moeller and Iowa Sen. Amy Sinclair | Co-Vice Chairs: Michigan Rep. Ann Bollin and Kansas Rep. Jarrod Ousley

Through the Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development, or BILLD, CSG Midwest provides annual training on leadership and professional development for newer state and provincial legislators from this region. This page provides information related to the BILLD program, leadership development and legislative leadership. CSG's Midwestern Legislative Conference BILLD Steering Committee — a bipartisan group of state and provincial legislators from the Midwest — oversees the program, including the annual selection of BILLD Fellows.

STATELINE MIDWEST

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS | MIDWESTERN OFFICE

CSG EVENTS

CSG Midwestern Legislative Conference Virtual Events for Legislators

Visit csgmidwest.org to find dates of upcoming webinars and view recordings of past webinars on public policy, professional development and leadership training.



MLC

Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development

October 1-5, 2021 | Minneapolis, Minnesota

Contact: Laura Tomaka ~ ltomaka@csg.org
630.925.1922 | csgmidwest.org



BILLD

Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission Meeting

October 13-15, 2021 | Detroit, Michigan

Contact: Laura Kliewer ~ lkliwer@csg.org
630.925.1922 | csgmidwest.org



CSG National Conference

December 1-4, 2021 | Santa Fe, New Mexico

Contact: membership@csg.org
859.244.8000 | web.csg.org



Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting

July 10-13, 2022 | Wichita, Kansas

Contact: Cindy Andrews ~ candrews@csg.org
630.925.1922 | csgmidwest.org



STATELINE MIDWEST

Stateline Midwest is published 11 times a year by the
Midwestern Office of The Council of State Governments.

Annual subscription rate: \$60
To order, call 630.925.1922

CSG Midwest Office Staff

Michael H. McCabe, Director
Tim Anderson, Publications Manager
Mitch Arvidson, Program Manager
Cindy Calo Andrews, Assistant Director
Derek Cantù, Policy Analyst
Jenny Chidlow, Marketing and
Administrative Services Manager

Jon Davis, Policy Analyst and Assistant Editor
Ilene K. Grossman, Assistant Director
Laura Kliewer, Senior Policy Analyst
Christina Luporini, Administrative Assistant
Laura A. Tomaka, Senior Program Manager
Kathy Treland, Administrative Coordinator and
Meeting Planner

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
FOX VALLEY, IL
PERMIT NO. 441



MIDWEST

August 2021

The Council of State Governments, Midwestern Office
701 E. 22nd Street, Suite 110 | Lombard, IL 60148-5095
Phone: 630.925.1922 | Fax: 630.925.1930
Email: csgm@csg.org | csgmidwest.org

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED