

The Council of State Governments

News Release – July 29, 2013

New Hampshire Sen. Carson Selected as CSG Toll Fellow

Prestigious leadership development programs for elected officials to meet later this summer

LEXINGTON, KY-- New Hampshire state Sen. Sharon M. Carson is one of 48 state policymakers from across the country selected as a Council of State Governments' Henry Toll Fellow for the Class of 2013.

The 48 Toll Fellows in the Class of 2013 represent 35 states and Puerto Rico, with 35 serving in the legislative branch, four serving in the judiciary and nine hailing from the executive. A 13-member committee of state leaders, many who are Toll Fellows themselves, reviewed a record number of applications to select the class.

"Individually, these leaders have a proven track record of accomplishing great things; collectively they represent the future leadership of the states," said David Adkins, CSG's executive director/CEO.

The Toll Fellowship Program, named for CSG founder Henry Wolcott Toll, is one of the nation's premier leadership development programs for state government officials. Each year, Toll Fellows brings 48 of the nation's top officials from all three branches of state government to Lexington, Ky., for an intensive six-day, five-night "intellectual boot camp."

"I applied to the Toll Fellowship program to learn new leadership skills that will help me to become a stronger and more effective leader so that I can better serve my constituents," Carson said.

The program's agenda includes a lineup of dynamic speakers and sessions designed to stimulate personal assessment and growth, while providing priceless networking and relationship-building opportunities. While each year's program is unique, previous programs have included sessions on leadership personality assessment, media training, crisis management, appreciative inquiry, adaptive leadership and much more.

Carson said the kind of training provided by Toll Fellows is important for state leaders.

"Continued leadership training is an investment not only in an individual," she said, "but also in your organization. We must continue to strive to be better, to seek out new ways to tackle problems that our states face every day."

Adkins was a 1993 Toll Fellow when he served as a Kansas state representative.

"The Toll Fellowship remains the oldest and most prestigious of all leadership development programs for elected officials," he said. "Its impact is profound and its

quality is renowned. As a Toll Fellow from 1993, I know first hand the impact the program has on elected officials."

Toll Fellows alumni include U.S. Rep. John Carney, a former Delaware lieutenant governor; U.S. Rep. Colleen Hanabusa, a former Hawaii state Senate president; U.S. Rep. Todd Rokita, a former Indiana secretary of state; former North Carolina Gov. Beverly Perdue and former U.S. Labor Secretary Hilda Solis.

This year's program will be held Aug. 16-21.

CSG Media Office: 859.244.8246