The National Governors Association Center for Best Practice (NGA Center) is launching the Smarter States, Smarter Communities initiative to advance a “smart for all” vision. It will help governors develop state-wide programs that build upon and expand local successes. The initiative will start with a two-year effort to educate, accelerate and replicate smart efforts across the country. NGA will initially focus on opportunities in energy, transportation and public safety and emergency response, where states are already making strides.

About the Event
Smarter States, Smarter Communities Learning Lab will be held from October 17 – 19, 2018 in Chicago, Illinois with governor designated teams from Colorado, Nevada, New Jersey, North Dakota, and Virginia to explore successful approaches to becoming smarter states. It will convene other states, cities and leading experts to share additional insights. These officials will hear first-hand about other state experiences, consult experts, explore ideas in a small group setting and produce actionable recommendations for their respective governors.

The NGA Center will assemble lessons learned into a set of roadmaps that will help all states accelerate their efforts. The roadmaps will offer a step-by-step guide with examples drawn from across the country. The NGA Center will release the roadmaps in April 2019 with a series of webinars and podcasts featuring expert speakers and pursue media events that highlight state successes to date alongside private sector partners.

State Goals & Objectives

**Colorado:**
- Connected vehicles and drivers with the capacity to connect to each other, helping to prevent accidents and speed the flow of traffic
- Smarter trucking that moves goods and services more efficiently, for the benefit of communities and industry
- Improved, smarter systems in infrastructure, like ramps that help improve the flow of traffic and decrease the need for additional lanes

**Nevada**
- See how different state agencies can overlap and pool resources in advancing multiple initiatives benefiting transportation, energy and communication/data systems
- How to effectively negotiate and partner with private industry to advance and balance the interests of both
- Explore steps and resources needed to begin “smart city” planning

**New Jersey**
- Increasing infrastructure intelligence by optimizing investments and increasing the efficiency of existing infrastructure
- Developing a multi-year, statewide smart grid transition plan

**North Dakota**
- Creating a framework for data management and governance to enable integration.
- Better serve and connect rural communities by integrating data, AI/ML/predictive analytics, and existing UAS capabilities.
- Enhance livability and provide opportunities for citizen feedback with IoT.

**Virginia**
- Integrate disparate information into a single operating picture to enable real-time information sharing. The data platform must support security and privacy, additional public data, private and protected data, and public and privileged access.
- Provide ubiquitous broadband access across the state within ten years and develop policies and mechanisms to speed deployment.
- Case Study: Deploy smart lighting to improve public safety and reduce energy costs