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The Business of Government

The government and the nation face a significant period in modern history. The combination of the “fiscal cliff”—involving debts, deficits, budgets, taxes—combined with the opportunities facing the administration, as well as the increased power of the Internet, social media, and “Big Data,” place government leaders in uncharted waters that hold the potential for great challenges, but also great opportunities. Now more than ever, stakeholders in the success of government must come forward with creative approaches to solving seemingly intractable problems.

The Center for The Business of Government is participating actively in this discussion, building on our mission of bringing external research and leadership perspectives to potential solutions for hard problems facing the public sector. For the past several months, I have had the honor of succeeding Jonathan Breul as the Center’s executive director, working with the outstanding Center team to carry forward. The Center remains a key voice for how government can best manage the many challenges that it faces in serving citizens.

In addition to this semi-annual magazine, which contains a rich array of content, insights, and viewpoints about current and prospective ways that the government can manage effectively through a time of tremendous change, the Center maintains three central content channels:

- Reports by experts, largely from academia and the non-profit sector, that analyze and recommend practical solutions for challenges facing government
- Interviews with government leaders on their perspectives about key issues, which air on our weekly radio show, *The Business of Government Hour*, on Federal News Radio 1500AM every Monday at 11 a.m. and Wednesday at noon
- A web and social media channel, through which the Center has increasingly engaged in a rich dialogue about issues that government managers face daily

With regard to our use of social media, we seek to bring real-time perspectives to current topics through blogs, tweets, and interactive discussions across a range of new media channels. We will continue to evolve with the pace of innovation across this very collaborative platform, and seek to build more partnerships with other organizations who have similar perspectives—helping to identify synergies in perspective that can shed light on ongoing challenges for government stakeholders.

The Center also continues to issue periodic original papers that address specific management issues facing government. In the last year, we reported on major management imperatives facing the public sector today; joined with the National Academy for Public Administration and the Partnership for Public Service to develop recommendations for how federal, state, and local governments can work together and with non-profit and private sector groups to help deliver benefits more effectively; and last month again joined with the Partnership to release an important paper on the use of data and analytics to improve

decision-making in government. We also are releasing a series of reports about particular management needs in the national security community. These kinds of near-term, in-depth analyses can help government to define problem areas and develop focused solution alternatives. We welcome collaboration with other interested partners and stakeholders in addressing significant issues to help improve government performance.

In addition, we have taken a step back to examine major issues over the next several years. The Forum highlights a number of these areas. We are updating a number of key reports that have stood the test of time over several election cycles. And we will publish reports separately in early 2013 that identify ways for government to act more effectively, efficiently, and rapidly in meeting the historic imperative that stands before it today.

As always, and especially in light of the confluence of current events, the Center will seek to identify challenges and opportunities for leaders and managers in ways that benefit agencies—and ultimately, the citizens who are well-served by the cause of better government. ■

