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Acting Governor Guadagno Celebrates Diversity at Statewide Hispanic Chamber Luncheon

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Trenton, NJ – Acting Governor Kim Guadagno today addressed the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey’s (SHCCNJ) Diversity Luncheon at the Rutgers University Student Center in New Brunswick.

In her remarks, the Acting Governor shared her own experiences with gender bias during her career.

“If I had followed conventional wisdom, or listened to skeptics, I would not be doing the work I love today for the state I love. Together with the SHCCNJ and all of today’s participants, our leadership and positive examples will continue to advance gender and racial equality,” said Acting Governor Guadagno. “Policy reflects the people at the table. New Jersey, as one of the diverse states in the country, should also have diverse boardrooms and diverse government. We all must continue to work to be sure everyone has a seat at the table.”

The day-long Expo provided networking activities and included information on starting and growing a business. A panel discussion moderated by Cid Wilson, President and CEO of the Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility, followed the luncheon with panelists from WalMart, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of NJ, and Rutgers University discussing the importance of diversity in business and available procurement opportunities.

“The board of directors is honored to have the Acting Governor welcome the crowd at the SHCCNJ Diversity Luncheon,” said Carlos Medina, Esq., Chairman of the SHCCNJ. “The Acting Governor has been a supporter of New Jersey’s business community since day one, and in particular knows the value that diversity brings to businesses. She has always made our diverse members a priority, and we thank her for that.”

In 1989, a group of business leaders met with Governor Tom Kean and were encouraged to start a Chamber to foster, mentor and train Hispanic-owned business in New Jersey. The SHCCNJ has since been ranked among the largest Chambers of Commerce in the state by NJBIZ. The SHCCNJ’s non-Hispanic membership has also grown, reaching 45 percent. For more information on the SHCCNJ, please visit its website at <http://www.shccnj.com/>

2013 American Community Survey data on race and ethnicity showed that New Jersey is a highly diverse state with the nation’s fourth-largest Asian population and seventh-largest Hispanic population. According to the 2013 American Community Survey, the state’s proportion of “minority” population (41.5 percent) was substantially higher than the national average of 36.7 percent.

Businesses considering a move or in need of assistance are encouraged to call the Business Action Center at (866) 534-7789 or visit the State’s Business Portal at www.newjerseybusiness.gov. Spanish-speaking staff is available.

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