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Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno Highlights Technical Education During Tour Of Nationally Ranked Monmouth County Biotechnology High School

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School Specializes In Fields of Biotechnology, Laboratory Science, Research, Mathematic And Technology

Trenton, NJ – Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno today continued her tour of New Jersey's career technical education schools with a visit to the Monmouth County Biotechnology High School, which has established successful partnerships with business networks and higher education experts in the areas of life sciences and biotechnology.

"In recognizing National Career and Technical Education Month, we want to explore the innovative contributions that business and workforce networks, as well as university experts, can provide for the students and staff in the vocational-technical career programs," said Lt. Governor Guadagno. "There is no better way to inspire students to strive for excellence in highly technical fields than to give them access to those practitioners who understand what students must learn in order to pursue technical career paths."

Monmouth County Biotechnology High School offers thematic classes that focus on the field of biotechnology and include electives in neurobiology, anatomy and physiology, developmental biology, biomedical engineering, and bio-business. It features the rigorous International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program and a college preparatory curriculum with an emphasis on laboratory science, research, mathematics and technology. All junior and senior students at BTHS are International Baccalaureate Diploma Candidates and 93% of the Class of 2013 earned an IB Diploma.

The building's unique design supports the theme of biotechnology, with two modern research labs, a tissue culture lab, and flexible spaces designed to promote teamwork – a hallmark of the biotechnology industry. In 2013, *US News and World Report* ranked Biotechnology High School as 8th best high school in the nation, and the best high school in the state of New Jersey. The school has 100% of its seniors engaging in an industry-related Senior Internship, and approximately 85% of the graduates declare a major in STEM.

Lt. Governor Guadagno was accompanied on her visit to Monmouth County Biotechnology High School's campus by New Jersey Secretary of Higher Education Rochelle Hendricks; Marie Barry, director of the state Department of Education's Office of Career and Technical Education; and Principal Linda Eno. The state officials met with students, educators and representatives of the school's partners to learn about the partnership the school has established with business and higher education to create its state-of-the-art life sciences and biotechnology program.

Also participating in the visit were Biotechnology High School faculty members Dr. Julie Nowicki, Dave Pinkus, William Herchek, and Dr. Linda Rogers; Vicki Gaddy, vice president of the Life Sciences Talent Network at BioNJ, SPHR; Dean J. Paranicas, president and CEO of the HealthCare Institute of New Jersey (HINJ); Dr. William Sciarappa, Associate Professor of Agriculture and Resource Management at Rutgers University and an Agent II at the Cooperative Extension of Rutgers; and Dr. Barbara Zilinskas, professor in the Department of Plant Biology and Pathology at the Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences.

BioNJ was founded in 1994 by New Jersey biotechnology industry CEOs and serves as the voice of biotechnology

companies located in New Jersey. The BioNJ network is singularly focused on the growth and prosperity of New Jersey's biotechnology cluster comprising 230 companies engaged in biopharmaceutical, biomedical, bio-agricultural and bio-remedial endeavors.

Founded in 1997, the HealthCare Institute of New Jersey (HINJ) is a trade association for the research-based biopharmaceutical and medical technology industry in New Jersey. HINJ serves as a unified voice for New Jersey's life sciences industry and seeks to build awareness of this industry's impact on New Jersey's quality of life and economic well-being.

CTE programs are offered throughout New Jersey's 21 county vocational high schools and in more than 100 traditional high schools. More than 90,000 secondary students participate in CTE programs, with approximately 30,000 of them attending the 21 vocational schools. Approximately 70 percent of the state's vocational-tech students attend college. Every county features partnerships with business, industry, colleges and universities.

In coming weeks, Lt. Governor Guadagno will continue to tour career and technical education schools in other counties as a way to spotlight the programs and success stories of the county vocational schools.

"It is impossible to measure the value of having industry experts bring real-world expertise to the career programs in high schools such as biotechnology," added the Lt. Governor. "These career programs ensure that students are preparing for fields that motivate them, while they are getting an excellent start toward acquiring the educational foundation for success in the technical fields."

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Transcript:

Governor Christie: It is a very difficult job, challenging job, to try to figure out when you have thirty-seven billion... (baby sounds)...Don't worry about it, it's actually a good sound. When you have thirty-seven billion dollars in damages and only fifteen to twenty billion dollars to pay for those damages, what's a fair and equitable way to be able to distribute that money so that the most people get help, and, the people who need it the most get that help. That's always been our priority. And I think that's the spirit of the people in this state. Everybody who's damaged would like to have help, but I think most people would say we need to help those who need the help the most, first. And then continue to work down the line to help as many other people as we can. That's the way we're running these programs, and that's what we hope to accomplish over the course of the next number of months in 2014. So, we never are going to have enough money to make everybody whole. That's the sad fact of the decisions that Congress made and the President in terms of monies allocated to us to pay for the damages of this storm – to both us and the state of New York. But, you have my word that I'm going to work as hard as I can every day to make sure that the people most in need get the help as quickly as they possibly can, if they haven't gotten it already. And that any money that we have after that will be given out equitably to people in the exact same way.

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