**THIS WEEK IN NEW JERSEY: DECEMBER 14, 2018**

**FIGHT FOR 15**
As part of his ongoing commitment to building a stronger and fairer New Jersey, Governor Phil Murphy toured Earth Friendly Products in Parsippany and expressed his support for a $15 minimum wage for all working New Jerseyans.

"A $15 minimum wage will not only lift up the current generation of New Jersey working families, but ensure fairness and opportunity for future generations," said Governor Phil Murphy. "For the more than one million New Jersey workers who earn less than $15 an hour, the Legislature needs to act immediately to provide working families with the raise they need to live secure lives. A $15 minimum wage is integral to building a stronger and fairer New Jersey."

**WATCH:** [Raise the Wage](#)

**GOVERNOR MURPHY SIGNS BILL ESTABLISHING STEM LOAN REDEMPTION PROGRAM**
Governor Murphy signed a bill into law establishing a STEM Loan Redemption Program within the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority. This program will provide graduates of New Jersey college and universities employed in STEM fields with $1,000 each year for a maximum of 4 years towards their student loans, which will be matched by the participant’s employer.

"Providing relief to graduates of our world-class STEM degree programs has been a priority of mine since I began my campaign for elected office," said Governor Murphy. "I am pleased that the Legislature agreed with us on the need to ensure that current and future generations of highly-skilled workers and innovators are incentivized to live and work in New Jersey."

**READ MORE:** [STEM Loan Redemption Program](#)

**NEW JERSEY EXPANDS SNAP ASSISTANCE**
Carole Johnson, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Human Services, announced the expansion of food assistance to career and technical community college students.

"If we expect to open the doors to community colleges and really focus on college affordability in the state, for any families that mean much more than tuition,” said Commissioner Johnson. “That means making sure they have access to affordable food, child care services, and critical social supports are part of the equation."

**WATCH:** [Expanding SNAP to Community Colleges](#)

**MEETING WITH NEW JERSEY’S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATES**
Honored to meet with our Congressional delegation in Newark to discuss our shared priorities for New Jersey, including the Gateway Project, ACA enrollment, water infrastructure, and restoring the full SALT deduction.

**NJEDA Announces First Nine Collaborative Workspaces Approved to Support Startups Through NJ Ignite**
Technology and life-sciences startups considering a move into incubators, accelerators or coworking spaces are now able to apply for rent support grants at nine collaborative workspaces throughout the state.

These nine workspaces are the first to be approved by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority to participate in NJ Ignite.

"We often hear from the entrepreneurial community about the difficulty that startups have finding affordable office and lab space in New Jersey," Governor Murphy said. "Through NJ Ignite, we are striking to remove that obstacle, enabling Garden State innovators to preserve precious angel and product development, connecting with investors, and everything else it takes to successfully grow and prosper here."

**READ MORE:** [Nine Collaborative Workspaces Approved to Support Startups Through NJ Ignite](#)