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Lt. Governor Guadagno Congratulates First Graduating Class of M.E.T.S. Charter School

Friday, June 26, 2015

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70% of Students Graduating High School with College Credits

Trenton, NJ – Applauding the success of school choice in helping students reach their full potential, Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno today delivered a commencement address to the first graduating class of M.E.T.S. Charter School in Jersey City.

"Do not let others define you because of your gender, your race, where you were born or what you believe," Lt. Governor Guadagno said. "If I had followed conventional wisdom, or listened to skeptics, I would not be doing the thing I love today, for the state I love. Be proud that you are first and always be aware that because you are first, all eyes are on you."

She added, "You all started over when you entered high school. It was a time for new beginnings. So is today. Use it to turn the world upside down! Be bold."

Established in 2011, M.E.T.S. Charter School is a college preparatory middle and high school serving grades 6 through 12 in the Heights of Jersey City. Middle School students begin taking high school classes for high school graduation credit as early as 7th and 8th grade, and students are able to begin college level courses in 10th grade.

Supporting its advanced mathematics, science, technology, and engineering curriculum, M.E.T.S. Charter School offers partnerships with New Jersey City University, Rutgers University, Hudson County Community College, and the Liberty Science Center. More than 70% of the graduating class took early college dual enrollment classes through Hudson County Community College, and nearly 60% of those graduated with a full semester of college credits.

New Jersey's first 13 charter schools opened in 1997. Currently, 87 schools operate in 16 counties and 41 cities across the state, serving approximately 37,500 students. Since 2010, charter school attendance has risen nearly 73%. For more information on Charter Schools in New Jersey, please visit the Department of Education's website at <http://www.nj.gov/education/chartsch/>.

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