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NEWS RELEASE

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GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES \$6 MILLION LIBERTY SCIENCE CENTER, ABBOTT DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP

Gov. Christie Whitman today highlighted her commitment to education technology when she participated in a fourth grade science lesson conducted at the Liberty Science Center and via distance learning with students in Harrison. The Governor announced that up to \$6 million has been made available in this year's state budget to develop a partnership between all of the state's 28 Abbott districts and the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City for the sharing of science education resources of the center.

The Governor also announced a \$5,478,000 technology grant program for the three state-operated school districts -- Paterson, Jersey City and Newark. The two-year grant program will enable the districts to develop Technology Model Schools, which will encourage the use of technology and help students achieve New Jersey's Core Curriculum.

"We have seen how interactive technology can make the Liberty Science Center a virtual classroom accessible to schools," Gov. Whitman said. "We have seen how this technology brings people closer together. And we have seen how this partnership between the Liberty Science Center and our schools changes the way our students experience science."

"The LSC program focuses on science education at all levels," she said. "And the content of the program is connected to New Jersey's Core Curriculum Standards. Lessons in classrooms at all grade levels can, therefore, be linked with exhibits at the science center."

Through the partnership, all Abbott district students will share the science education resources of the center. Previously, only the Paterson, Jersey City and Newark districts were in partnership with the LSC. As a result of the partnership, all Abbott district students will receive unlimited free passes to the LSC as well as participate in field trips, interactive distance learning system technology and other activities.

All of the activities will be focused on helping students meet the science standards in the state's Core Curriculum Standards.

"Not only will students benefit; so will their teachers," the Governor said. "Through the LSC Partnership Program, teachers will be able to participate in professional development activities in science education. By expanding this innovative partnership, we are taking another step to improve the quality of education in our Abbot district schools."

The Governor participated in an interactive lesson on insect exoskeleton growth and molting while visiting the Liberty Science Center. Students from Paterson School #2 attended the lesson at the Science Center and students from Lincoln Elementary School in Harrison participated in it via the interactive distance learning system.

"In an increasingly technical world, an understanding of science is crucial and will open doors for students the rest of their lives," Gov. Whitman said. "The Model Schools will encourage students and teachers to use technology in every aspect of the learning process."

"State-of-the art equipment, Internet access, and on- line resources will contribute to helping our students achieve New Jersey's Core Curriculum Standards," she said. "And these Technology Model Schools in Jersey City, Newark and Paterson will act as an example for all New Jersey schools."

Three schools will benefit from the Technology Model School grant program. They are Paterson School # 4; the Whitney M. Young, Jr. school in Jersey City and the

Camden Middle School in Newark.

