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Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno Welcomes 2014 Miss America Pageant Contestants to Atlantic City

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Trenton, NJ – Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno and leaders from the Miss America Organization today welcomed the 53 contestants who will be competing in this year's nationally televised 2014 Miss America Competition. The Miss America Organization announced its return to Atlantic City this past February. This year's event will be broadcast live from Boardwalk Hall on the ABC television network on September 15.

"On behalf of the Christie Administration, it's a pleasure to offer a warm welcome to the 53 Miss America contestants. All of them have been hailed as extraordinary women by their sponsoring states and well-deserving of the success that has brought them to this point," said Lt. Governor Guadagno. "Welcoming Miss America home to Atlantic City is great news on many levels. It will not only offer a tremendous post-Labor Day boost to local businesses, but also showcase New Jersey's unique appeal as a tourism destination to a nationwide audience of millions."

The Miss America Pageant welcomes contestants from all 50 states, plus Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This year's event marks its return to Atlantic City, where it traces its origins all the way back to 1920. In addition to hosting an iconic American tradition, the Miss America Organization is the proud home to one of the nation's leading achievement programs and is the world's largest provider of scholarship assistance for young women. Along with its state and local affiliates, the Miss America Organization offered more than \$45 million in scholarship support last year alone.

"We are so proud to have Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno join us for the historic return of the Miss America Pageant to Atlantic City," said Sam Haskell, III, Chairman & CEO of the Miss America Organization. "Since our announcement last February, we have been welcomed home with great enthusiasm and a renewed spirit that will shine through in all of the events, including the iconic parade and our ABC Miss America telecast on Sunday, September 15. We are truly grateful for the support of the Governor's Office to bring Miss America home to her birthplace, and we know that this will be a momentous occasion for all of us to celebrate this great American tradition."

The Miss America Pageant is the latest in a series of world-class events that have either recently occurred or will soon take place in New Jersey. Wrestlemania 29 sold-out MetLife Stadium in April, with Super Bowl 48 to follow at the venue on February 2, 2014. New Jersey will also be the proud host of the 2014 Special Olympics USA National Games, in addition to countless other events showcasing some of the world's premier athletes, entertainers, and performers of all genres and disciplines throughout the year.

For more information on the Miss America Organization and its work, visit www.missamerica.org.

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