

Office of the Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

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GOVERNOR ENCOURAGES YOUNG WOMEN TO REACH FOR SUCCESS DURING "TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS TO WORK DAY"

Gov. Christie Whitman today encouraged young women to reach for success in whatever career path they choose during "Take Our Daughters to Work Day" activities at Merrill Lynch in Somerset and the State House in Trenton.

"It is important for New Jersey's daughters to see that you have options. You can do anything - be it fire fighters, financial advisors, doctors, lawyers, even politicians," said Gov. Whitman. "Take Our Daughters to Work Day is important because it exposes you to the appropriate role models - role models who make you realize that you can do anything that you put your mind to."

The Governor visited Merrill Lynch offices in Somerset and talked with young women ages 9 to 15 who were taking part in the company's "Take Our Daughters to Work Day." The Governor's visit was also broadcast via satellite at other Merrill Lynch locations in Jacksonville, Florida, Denver, Colorado and Horsham, Pennsylvania. During her visit, the Governor took questions from young women in Somerset and the satellite locations.

Later in the day, Gov. Whitman talked with young women participating in the State House "Take Our Daughters to Work Day" program in Trenton. The Governor talked with the group about her job being Governor and answered questions from the group.

The Governor held a State House ceremony where she signed a proclamation declaring April 23 as "Take Our Daughters to Work Day" in New Jersey. The Governor also signed mock legislation declaring this week as New Jersey TV-Turnoff Week. The mock legislation was approved earlier in the day by participants in the Office of Legislative Services "Take Our Daughters to Work Day" program. Attached is a copy of the proclamation declaring April 23 as "Take Our Daughters to Work Day."

Gov. Whitman has served as a strong role model for New Jersey's young women, appointing an unprecedented number of women to her cabinet, enacting policies to ensure that women business owners get a fair chance and signing laws to protect women's health and safety. The Governor has also placed a high priority on improving education, providing children with greater access to health care and ensuring that New Jersey youth for generations to come can enjoy the state's wide open space and high quality of life.

Gov. Whitman is being accompanied for "Take Our Daughters to Work Day" by two young women, Sajdah Bilal, a sixth grader from Newark who attends the North Star Academy Charter School and Emily Rogers, a sixth grader from Eastern Christian Middle School in Wyckoff.

Gov. Whitman has established a "Take Our Daughters to Work Day" website which is located at www.state.nj.us/governor/daughters/daughter/html. The site has already received 1,500 hits during the last two weeks.

