

Office of the Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Names Acting Secretary of State

Gov. Christie Whitman today named a member of her staff, Carol Cronheim of Lambertville, to serve as Acting Secretary of State.

"Carol was one of the architects of my plan to restructure the Department of State into an agency that better coordinates and promotes the state's arts, history, and the humanities programs," said Gov. Whitman. "Because of Carol's extensive background in the arts and humanities, I have asked her to oversee the implementation of the reorganization of the Department."

Cronheim currently serves as a policy advisor and speechwriter for the Governor. Since 1994, she has been responsible for recommending to Gov. Whitman policies affecting the arts, history, humanities, tourism, New Jersey Network, and the New Jersey Department of State. She also serves on the State Capitol Joint Management Commission.

"I am honored to have been asked by Gov. Whitman to serve her administration and the people of New Jersey at this important time of change for the Department of State," said Cronheim. "Like the Governor, I believe the arts, history and the humanities are integral to any civilized society and every proud state."

Gov. Whitman said that she is still in the interviewing process to name a permanent Secretary. She said, however, that it is critical to name someone in an acting capacity so that the implementation of the reorganization of the Department can continue to move forward during the selection process.

Cronheim, who received her bachelor's degree in classics from Princeton University and her master's degree from the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University, started her career in 1986 in Gov. Thomas Kean's Office of Constituent Relations. She then served as special assistant to Secretary of State Jane Burgio. Cronheim was special assistant to the senior deputy chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts from 1990-91, before serving as legislative director for Assemblyman Leonard Lance (R-Hunterdon/Warren/Mercer) from 1991-94.