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NEWS RELEASE

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GOVERNOR HIGHLIGHTS NEW JERSEY'S EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY IN VISIT TO PRINCETON LABORATORIES

Gov. Christie Whitman today highlighted the vast amount of education technology in New Jersey when she visited Princeton University's technology laboratories as part of a week long focus on the role of technology in New Jersey. She also announced the awarding of \$8.5 million to 86 school districts in the second round of grants from New Jersey's Technology Literacy Challenge Fund (NJ-TLCF) grant programs.

"These grants will encourage Internet access, e-mail for every teacher, and websites for every school district," the Governor said.

Gov. Whitman said the goal of the federally-funded NJ- TLCF grant program is to accelerate the full benefits of educational technology to all schools in the state for students to achieve the state's new academic standards. The comprehensive standards encompass seven different subject areas and several special areas which students are required to master before they graduate from high school.

The first round of NJ-TLCF grants totaling \$4 million were awarded to 40 grantees in January by the state Department of Education.

"Each grant recipient must extend these resources to the community beyond the school day," she said. "They must provide on- line access in places such as public libraries and community centers."

"It's important that we bridge the gap between the technology haves and have-nots," Gov. Whitman said. "Like in the movie Good Will Hunting, the next Einstein may be out there waiting in the wings - or mopping a floor."

The Governor said the State Department of Education awarded grants totaling \$10 million to establish Educational Technology Training Centers (ETTCs) in each of the state's 21 counties. She said these resource centers, which are designed to help teachers learn how to use technology to better implement the academic standards, have been established in every county.

"With more than \$250 million over five years in Distance Learning Network Aid, we are helping each school in the state connect via technology," the Governor said.

"With the ETTCs and Challenge grants, it's part of our efforts to keep New Jersey on the cutting edge of high technology."

"It's no mystery how important technology is to our state," she said. "It employs hundreds of thousands of New Jerseyans in high-wage jobs. In total, one in ten of our workers is a high-tech worker."

"And, as anyone who picks up a paper knows, high-tech miracles are happening every day," the Governor said.

Gov. Whitman cited the software developed by Siemens Corporate Research that allows surgeons to examine the human body by computer before operating on a patient. The innovation lowers patients' risks, helps surgeons prepare for particular procedure, and provides a risk-free way to train surgeons.

As a result of the innovation, Siemens Corporate Research was the recipient of a prestigious Discover Magazine Technology Award.

The Governor said another remarkable breakthrough was the creation of an artificial hand that allows users to control individual fingers through their original nerve pathways. The device was developed by Rutgers graduate student Ricki Abboudi and biomedical professor William Craelius.

"I believe these miracles are more than just a `refinement of everyday thinking,'" she said. "They are proof of New Jersey's leadership in science and technology. We are doing all we can to make New Jersey the most technology-friendly state in the nation."