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Lt. Governor Guadagno Addresses “Women Who Empower” Awards Luncheon

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African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey Confronts Gender Barrier, Honors Four Community Leaders

Trenton, NJ - Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno today joined the African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey (AACCNJ) for its "Women Who Empower" Awards Luncheon, part of its 2015 Speaker Series.

"Today, we honor women who serve our state and inspire the next generation of women leaders through their positive example. Thanks to their dedication, future generations won't have to be convinced that people of a certain gender, ethnicity, or race can do the job," said Lt. Governor Guadagno. "It won't even be a question."

The luncheon included a panel discussion about breaking the gender barrier in the sports and entertainment industry. During the event, awards were presented to *El-Rhonda Williams Alston, Esq.*, former president of The Association of Black Women Lawyers and a current member of the New Jersey Department of the Treasury; *Carolyn V. Chang, Esq.*, Mayor of Westampton Township; Assemblywoman *BettyLou DeCroce*; and Dr. Beverly Richardson, Vice President of Special Projects, Rowan College at Burlington County.

"We are honored to have the participation of the Lt. Governor in our 'Women Who Empower' Awards Luncheon," said John E. Harmon, Sr., IOM, President and CEO of the AACCNJ and Chairman of the National Black Chamber of Commerce. "She has been an integral part of the success of our organization."

Comprised of members representing a wide variety of industries, government agencies and retail businesses, the Chamber supports entrepreneurship and capitalistic initiatives dedicated to sustaining African American communities and businesses throughout the state. The AACCNJ provides programming and resources for its members, including workforce recruitment and training and access to procurement opportunities.

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