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NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Accepts the Distinguished Leadership Award from the National Association of Wholesalers - Distributors

Gov. Christie Whitman today will highlight the state's success in economic revitalization and job growth when she accepts the Distinguished Leadership Award from the National Association of Wholesalers - Distributors at a dinner tonight in Washington D.C.

"It's an honor to be recognized by your organization, which is dedicated to helping merchant wholesaler-distributors of all sizes. In New Jersey, we share your focus. We appreciate that any pro-business strategy must create opportunity for the mom-and-pop as well as the multi-national corporation," the Governor will say during her keynote address to the conference.

The National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors (NAW) is a federation of national, state and regional trade organizations. The NAW has a membership of more than 40,000 companies, including 2,000 direct and affiliated companies in New Jersey.

"On behalf of New Jersey's business leaders, and on behalf of the hard-working men and women on whom they rely, I thank you for this award. I accept it with a renewed commitment to keep New Jersey open for business," she will say.

Previous recipients of the Distinguished Leadership Award include General Colin Powell, Bob Dole, Elizabeth Dole, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott and California Governor Pete Wilson.

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