

PO BOX 004
TRENTON, NJ 08625

CONTACT: Gene Herman
609-777-2600

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NEWS RELEASE

Governor Whitman Swears in New Chair of NJ Advisory Commission on the Status of Women

Governor Christie Whitman today swore in Dianne Mills McKay as the new Chair of the NJ Advisory Commission on the Status of Women in a ceremony at the Masonic Temple in Trenton.

"Dianne inspires us with her energy and leadership," said the Governor. "She incites us to action through her support and advocacy for women. And she instills in us the desire to do all we can to secure gender equality. Dianne obviously has what it takes, and she knows how to move us to do all we can with our time and our talents."

The Commission advises the Division on Women in the Department of Community Affairs on the issues and concerns of women throughout the state. The Commission also advocates, promotes and supports efforts to improve the equity of women.

Ms. McKay, a lifelong resident of New Jersey, resides in Hainesport, Burlington County. She recently stepped down as President of the American Association of University Women-New Jersey, after serving six terms on the 5,000 member, statewide organization. Ms. McKay recently completed two, three-year terms on the Burlington County Committee for Women. She served on the committee as Chair and the representative for women's volunteer organizations.

From 1993 to 1995, Ms. McKay was a member for the New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women Advisory Committee. In addition, she co-chairs the Gender Equity Advisory Committee of the New Jersey Department of Education. Ms. McKay also teaches women's studies and sociology for the University of Southern Colorado at McGuire Air Force Base.

"Dianne brings a wealth of diverse experience to this position," said Jane M. Kenny, Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs. " Her background in education, community outreach and gender equity issues will be an invaluable asset to the Commission as we work to provide greater opportunities for the women of New Jersey."

Linda Bowker, Director of the Division on Women ,said Dianne Mills McKay is as outstanding choice. "Dianne has a proven track record," said Bowker. "Time and again, she has demonstrated her energy and leadership and her commitment to making a difference in the lives of New Jersey women."

In addition to advising the Division on Women, the Commission provides technical assistance and information to county and municipal commissions on women, state lawmakers, state agencies, statewide women's organizations, and the women of New Jersey. The Advisory Commission on the Status of Women is comprised of 11 citizen members representing various racial, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds, as well as geographical diversity.