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Lt. Governor Guadagno Praises Rising Charter School Success Rates At 7th Annual New Jersey Charter Schools Conference

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Stakeholders Discuss Future of Education at New Jersey Charter Schools Association Event

Trenton, NJ – Emphasizing New Jersey's commitment to providing access to high-quality education for all students, Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno joined New Jersey Education Commissioner David C. Hespe in Atlantic City for the 7th Annual New Jersey Charter Schools Conference hosted by the New Jersey Charter Schools Association (NJCSA).

"I know the slogan 'Charters Change Lives' is true, as the facts on the whole show that New Jersey's charter schools are successfully working to bridge the achievement gap," said Lt. Governor Guadagno. "It is time to look at all the resources a community can offer to meet individual student needs and improve student performance. It is time to realize that our families and our children are not all alike, and giving parents choices for high-quality education serves all of us."

New Jersey's first 13 charter schools opened in 1997. Currently, 87 schools operate in 16 counties and 41 cities across the state, serving approximately 37,500 students. Since 2010, charter school attendance has risen nearly 73%.

"For thousands of families across New Jersey, charter schools offer a high-quality public school option," said Education Commissioner Hespe. "Charter schools are utilizing innovative and creative ways to meet the needs of students and are proving, time and again, that zip code does not determine the quality of a child's education."

The Conference brings together the entire New Jersey charter school community, including administrators, teachers, business officials, parents, service providers and other stakeholders. The Conference offers more than 50 professional development breakout sessions and is an important forum for the charter community to gather and exchange ideas and best practices.

"The New Jersey Charter Schools Association is honored to have Lt. Governor Guadagno address our Annual Conference, and her appearance here today underscores the Christie administration's dedication to improving educational opportunity for all New Jersey public school students," said Michael Turner, Spokesman for NJCSA. "New Jersey's charter public schools are changing lives and, by closing the achievement gap with students from our state's more affluent communities, we are providing real opportunity."

Formed in 1999, the NJCSA is a 501(c)(3) membership association that represents the state's charter school community and is committed to advancing high-quality public education for New Jersey's children through public charter schools.

For more information on Charter Schools in New Jersey, please visit the Department of Education's website at <http://www.nj.gov/education/chartsch/>.

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