

## Office of the Governor

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### NEWS RELEASE

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#### **Governor Whitman Tours the Monterrey Institute of Technology; Visits Elementary School in Monterrey**

New Jersey Gov. Christie Whitman today toured two Mexican schools that will benefit from New Jersey's role as a hi-technology center.

During her trade mission to Mexico, Gov. Whitman stopped at the Monterrey Institute of Technology (MIT) and the Mano Amiga Santa Caterina Elementary/Secondary School in Monterrey. The elementary school was devastated by the 1993 hurricane that killed thousands of people and swept away the homes of thousands more.

As the town continues to rebuild, Mano Amiga Santa Caterina, which serves 800 students from kindergarten to eighth grade, received computers donated by New Jersey-based Lucent Technologies.

"This is a beautiful school and it shows that when we lend each other a helping hand, we rise above tragedy," Gov. Whitman said. "I am very pleased that Lucent Technologies is lending a hand to your school."

At MIT, Gov. Whitman spoke via satellite to the New Jersey Institute of Technology. The two universities today signed a memorandum of understanding to promote academic and educational exchanges between the two schools.

"Today, we are truly seeing technology bring people closer together," Gov. Whitman told audiences at both institutes.

MIT, founded in 1943 by Mexican businessmen, is a private college with nearly 70,000 students on 26 campuses. It offers undergraduate, masters, and doctoral programs in fields such as engineering, computer science, business administration, communications, food technology, law, and medicine.

"The New Jersey and Monterrey Institutes of Technology have so much in common - both are major scientific research universities and both are committed to improving the quality of higher education," Gov. Whitman said to audiences at both schools.

The universities will work together to develop programs of mutual cooperation in teaching, research, public service, and economic development. In addition to exchanges for staff and students, they intend to perform cooperative research.

"In this age of rapid technological change, increasing the flow of ideas between universities makes sense. In New Jersey and Mexico, we are seeing the international language of science bring us closer together," Gov. Whitman said. "This program will encourage greater cultural and intellectual exchanges and help our students explore the world through each other's universities."

NJIT is comprised of the Newark College of Engineering, School of Architecture, College of Science and Liberal Arts, School of Industrial Management, and The Albert Dorman Honors College. It has nearly 8,200 students.

Gov. Whitman's tour of MIT concluded her five-day trade mission to Mexico, during which she and a delegation of about 50 representatives from small businesses and Fortune 500 corporations visited Mexico City, Guadalajara and Monterrey. The Governor and the business representatives met with key government officials including President Ernesto Zedillo.

In addition to Monterrey, the group traveled to Mexico City and Guadalajara.

