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NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Whitman Addresses Silicon Valley Forum of the Commonwealth Club, Touts Technology and Education

New Jersey Gov. Christie Whitman today stressed the importance of cultivating high-tech industry and merging technology with education during an address before the Silicon Valley Forum of the Commonwealth Club of California.

During her address, the Governor highlighted similarities between the high-tech industry in California and New Jersey. She discussed her administration's policies aimed at fostering the expansion of high tech business and promoting technology as a vital educational tool.

The Commonwealth Club of California is a non-profit educational organization founded in San Francisco in 1903. The Commonwealth Club is the largest public affairs forum in the country, boasting 17,000 members. It sponsors speakers covering a wide range of topics including U.S. politics, art, science and technology.

The text of the Governor's remarks is attached.

REMARKS OF GOVERNOR CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN SILICON VALLEY FORUM THE COMMONWEALTH CLUB OF CALIFORNIA SEPTEMBER 11, 1998

Thank you. I am honored to be here today to speak with you about something near and dear to all of us: technology.

Not just technology per se. Rather, I want to talk with you about technology that works because it focuses - first and foremost - on helping people cope with technological change. Technology that works because it's supported by a results-oriented educational system. Technology that works because it's supported by a business-friendly environment.

First, let me begin with greetings from the Garden State's own Silicon Alley - New Jersey's Route One corridor that is now home to some of the country's technology giants.

New Jersey gave the world Thomas Edison and his "invention factory." And more than a hundred years later, New Jersey is still a world leader in technology.

Here in Silicon Valley, you have your own pioneers, people like Fred Terman, Bill Hewlett, and Dave Packard. From their work to the thousands of electronics and information technology companies here today you have created a "technology-friendly world." As they say: "Silicon Valley is the only place on Earth not trying to figure out how to become Silicon Valley."

When you think about it, California and New Jersey have so much in common. Beautiful coastlines. Economies that mix agriculture, service, biotech and high-technology industries. Highly skilled, diverse workforces. Innovation in every sector.

No wonder when the country wants to know what's up and coming, they look to the east and west coasts before making a move.

It's also been great to watch as New Jersey, now rated Number 7 in high tech growth by the American Electronics Association, attracts technology firms after technology firm.

Today, we employ more than 168,000 high-tech electronics workers, with average salaries of close to \$60,000. We can boast of an additional 165,000 New Jerseyans working in the pharmaceutical, research and development, and engineering sectors.

In total, 1 in 10 of our workers are employed in the high- tech industry.

And you, the businesses of Silicon Valley, know just how important technology has been for this economy. You have led the nation in high-tech employment, whether it's been in microprocessors, motherboards, or memory chips.

The powerhouse of high-tech innovation here has catapulted this country into unquestioned leadership in the virtual community. And just as Guttenberg opened the world to literacy through the printing press, you've opened the doors to communication through the semiconductor.

Back in 1996, in a one-day project called "24 Hours in Cyberspace," we saw just how powerful that connection has become. In that one-day virtual project we witnessed a mind-boggling array of events, worldwide, events made possible through technology.

There was an AIDS cybermemorial, a blind woman seeing the world through the Net, online Buddhist monks, and an electronic Talmudic study group. We could drop in on cybergraffiti artists in Singapore and or wired home schools in Seattle.

During those 24 hours online researchers studied the rainforests, children simulated space missions, and students monitored an archeological dig via the Internet. People with disabilities linked to medical care. Doctors carried out a virtual surgery, and a father shared a touching account of his son's battle with bone marrow cancer.

I mention "24 Hours In Cyberspace" not just to show how complex the cyberworld can be, but as an example of how every move we make in technology is tied to real live people.

Technology is children, parents, and grandparents. Technology, for all its glimmer, is about people connecting with other people. People seeking a better life, with better jobs, greater opportunity, and a brighter future.

And it's about making sure that we all become technologically proficient - young and old, and in-between.

I'm reminded of a story someone told me recently. A homeowner in New Jersey was having a new thermostat installed for a central air conditioning unit. The installer asked if the homeowner wanted an analog or a digital thermostat. Now there's a choice!

The homeowner chose the analog version, because the installer said it was easier to use. But the installer added: "I don't know what people - especially elderly folks - are going to do after the year 2000. After that there won't be any analog, it will all be digital." So clearly, there's still a lot of resistance to technology, even with something as simple as a thermostat.

Now, of course, that doesn't worry me too much since I'll just be turning 40 in the year 2000 and can surf the Internet with the best of them. But the reality of a digital world does concern me as a governor who believes in technology and who thinks that we need to bring every citizen into the world of technology.

For those still struggling with programming the VCR or trying to get the microwave to heat a cup of water -and failing miserably - a world of increasingly complex technology can be downright scary.

I'm sure you will agree that we need everyone traveling the information highway. We can't afford to leave anyone at the on ramp. We must make it our first order of business to help our citizens use technology to its fullest. The trick is how to do it. In New Jersey, we're convinced that coping with technology starts with a solid education for our young people.

That's why we've developed tough new core curriculum standards. With help from parents, teachers, business people, and education experts, we came up with rigorous standards in seven core subject areas - including math, English, science, history, and even world languages. And we're tying State aid to achievement of those standards.

Now, to business people like you, all of this just makes common sense. You don't invest in software or hardware unless you have some sense that it's going to meet the public's need. And once you make that investment, you put in quality controls to ensure that standards remain high.

For many years in education in New Jersey, we didn't do that. We tried to obey a Court edict to spend more on our poorest districts, but without high standards and

strict accountability. And as districts continued to fail their students, they kept coming back to court to demand more.

In May, the New Jersey Supreme Court affirmed that under my administration's standards-based, results-oriented plan, New Jersey at last fulfills our constitutional duty to provide a thorough and efficient education for every student.

This didn't just end 28 years of school funding litigation. It enabled us to enter a new era of education in New Jersey-an era in which the focus is not on how many dollars your school spends but how many scholars your school produces.

Our strategy is called whole-school reform. Which means that in every school in every one of the state's poorest districts, we're implementing top-to-bottom restructuring. We're completely reshaping how these schools operate.

And part of this reshaping is ensuring that while kids are learning their ABC's and numbers, they're also learning about technology.

That's why we're awarding more than \$12 million in grants from New Jersey's Technology Literacy Challenge Fund. We want our kids to learn technology the way they learn to read or do math: step by step from the early years.

We're not writing off our senior citizens that are going to have a tough time coping with that digital thermostat. We must be constantly sensitive to their needs. But we must plant the seeds of technology deep in the fertile soil of an educational system that works. And that won't happen unless everyone is involved in this process: local schools and districts, teachers, administrators, parents, and the children themselves.

Business leaders need to get involved too. If you believe that intelligent, highly skilled, technology-savvy workers are an essential resource, you need to stand up and be counted. You need to reach out to schools. You need to leverage public investment in education with the creative, dynamic energy that only you can provide.

At the same time, government needs to be business-friendly and explore every avenue it can to help you keep businesses strong. That's why our New Jersey Economic Development Authority has launched two new debt-financing programs in concert with our banks and businesses. These programs will provide nearly \$100 million in financing to technology-based companies. Most important, these funds are a down payment on ensuring that the people of New Jersey get a shot at working in the high tech industry.

And our Prosperity New Jersey partnership - a statewide public/private partnership - is bringing together the best minds from business, labor, and education to build on our leadership in telecommunications, pharmaceuticals, tourism, and international trade.

That's not all we're doing. The Early Stage Enterprises, supported by our Commission on Science and Technology, will invest more than \$40 million in emerging technology. The Commission will also start a \$5 million technology transfer program that will move ideas out of the laboratory and into the marketplace.

And in January, I signed into law a package of bills to help stimulate the growth of our many start-up and smaller high-tech companies. By providing sensible technology tax credits, we hope to cushion the costs of research and development and keep high-tech firms in New Jersey.

Among those bills was a corporate business tax benefit certificate program. This program allows new or expanding technology and biotechnology companies to sell certain unused tax benefits to other corporate business taxpayers during a company's start-up years when the help is needed most.

As you can see, we have a wide range of programs for a wide range of high-tech businesses. We realize that one-size doesn't fit all - not when it comes to technology and not when it comes to doing business.

No matter if it's the East Coast or the West Coast, we must continue to stimulate our high-tech businesses. We must continue to invest in solid results-oriented education. And we must continue to help all our citizens cope with technological change.

What we do today in technology is vital - for our states, for our businesses, for our schools, for our people.

As George Conrades, President of GTE Internetworking, said recently: "In the future, there will be those who focus narrowly on technology and those who operate within the broader context of how technologies are used. It's not hard to predict who will succeed."

New Jersey will continue to work with you to ensure that we continue to focus on how technologies are used to create better lives for people. We will continue to look toward your leadership and inspiration. We will continue to trumpet the belief that New Jersey, Silicon Valley, and technology are truly perfect together. Thank you.