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Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno Highlights Innovative Work of Junior Achievement of New Jersey

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Participates in Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for BizTown, an Educational Program Aimed At Teaching Middle-School Students About the 21st Century

Trenton, NJ - Highlighting the invaluable work of Junior Achievement (JA) of New Jersey, Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno, today, participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for JA BizTown, an educational program in partnership with MetLife Foundation. BizTown will teach middle-school students about the economy through engaging curriculum and one-day simulations.

"Junior Achievement BizTown is a bold, innovative program that will undoubtedly prepare our young people for the future," said Lt. Governor Guadagno. "The program will give these students the tools they need to thrive in today's economy and contribute to the overall success of our state. Congratulations to Junior Achievement of New Jersey and the MetLife Foundation for their efforts."

JA BizTown is a two-pronged, innovative educational approach. Fifth and sixth-grade students in the program participate in teacher-led lessons in the classroom where they are introduced to the roles of workers and consumers, learning about the role of government, the private sector and even non-profits in today's economy. The program culminates in a visit to BizTown, a simulated community where students put what they have learned in to practice, acting as business owners, philanthropists and elected officials. In addition, JA BizTown introduces students to careers and the educational requirements in order to achieve their goals.

"BizTown is preparing these students for the 21st Century economy," Lt. Governor Guadagno added. "By giving them the skills today, we help ensure they achieve long and productive careers."

Junior Achievement is the world's largest organization dedicated to educating young people about business, economics and free enterprise, reaching more than 4 million students per year in urban, rural and suburban areas in all 50 states across the U.S. – a total of 115 million students since the organization began in 1919. Junior Achievement's comprehensive curriculum, developed in partnership with educators, is a no-cost solution to schools and families that helps students meet New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards & Common Core State Standards in Social Studies, English & Math. JA of New Jersey (JANJ) is governed by a state board, which includes statewide executives as well as representatives from three regional district boards, North, Central and South Jersey.

Since its founding in 1976, MetLife Foundation has provided more than \$530 million in grants and \$100 million in program-related investments to nonprofit organizations. MetLife Foundation was created in 1976 to continue MetLife's longstanding tradition of corporate contributions and community involvement.

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