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- News Release -

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Christie Administration Addresses Delegates at New Jersey State Building Trades and Construction Council 111th Annual Convention

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., July 15, 2015 – Today Commissioner Harold J. Wirths of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development addressed delegates of the New Jersey State Building and Construction Trades Council (NJBCTC) at their 111th Annual Convention in Atlantic City.

Speaking before the more than 150 union members in attendance at Caesar's Atlantic City Hotel and Casino, Commissioner Wirths highlighted the Christie Administration's efforts to create jobs by making the state more attractive to business.

"The construction industry was hit hard by the recession, but has made a significant comeback," said Commissioner Wirths. "Over the last year, we added 11,000 construction jobs and expect to add an average of 4,000 jobs per year. The construction industry sector in New Jersey is vital to our economy."

Commissioner Wirths also announced his approval of \$600,000 in grants for the NJBUILD program. Otherwise known as the New Jersey Builders Utilization Initiative for Labor Diversity, the program is one of several in the state aimed at training women and minorities in the construction trades. NJBUILD provides funding for pre-apprenticeship training, basic skills instruction and structured work experience for entry-level skills in the construction trades.

Grants were approved for the Hudson County area through the Jersey City Employment and Training Program (\$200,000), the Camden County area through the Union Organization for

Social Services (\$150,000), and the Union County area through the New Jersey Carpenters Apprenticeship Training and Education Fund (\$250,000).



Commissioner Harold J. Wirths of the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development speaking to delegates of the New Jersey State Building and Construction Trades Council (NJBCTC) during the group's 111th Annual Convention in Atlantic City.