



Acting Governor Guadagno signs military and veterans affairs-related legislation at a bill signing ceremony at American Legion Post 348 in Brick earlier this month.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER Winter 2015

*A Quarterly Update on
What's Happening in the
Lt. Governor's Office*

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A Letter From Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno

Happy New Year!

I hope you and your family had a wonderful holiday season. I know that the holiday was brighter for 153,000 families: That's the number of private sector jobs created since this Administration took office. Together we're creating jobs in New Jersey. Five years ago this month, unemployment stood at 9.7%. Today, our unemployment rate sits at 6.4%. That's progress.

But this isn't just about numbers. These 153,000 jobs are filled by people – our Little League coaches, our volunteer first responders, our Sunday school teachers and our PTA members. They are our best friends and our neighbors. They are the fabric of our communities. They are what make New Jersey, New Jersey.

As I look back on the last year, I can't help but say "Thank you." With your help, we attracted and retained businesses of all shapes and sizes. We brought [Charles Komar & Sons](#) and its 500 jobs across the Hudson to New Jersey. We've seen Camden flourish with the relocation of the [Philadelphia 76ers](#), [Holtec International](#), [Lockheed Martin](#) and [Subaru of America](#).

I look forward to more of these success stories in the coming year and resolve to continue moving New Jersey forward.

UNDERSCORING NEW JERSEY'S POSITION AS A MILITARY-FRIENDLY STATE

Demonstrating an ongoing commitment to New Jersey's service members, veterans and their families, on January 6, 2015, Acting Governor Guadagno [signed](#) three bills honoring and supporting veterans and members of the armed forces. The bipartisan, unanimous legislation included:

- S-1027 – Permanently designates the Route 35 bridge between the Borough of Brielle and the Borough of Point Pleasant Beach as the "Veterans of All Wars Memorial Bridge"
- A-2184 – Provides a free death certificate for deceased veterans
- SJR-41 – Designates the second full week in November of each year as "Veterans' Education Awareness Week"

In December, Lt. Governor Guadagno, with Brigadier General Michael Cunniff, honored veterans at the [Wreaths Across America](#) wreath laying ceremony at the State House.

DID YOU KNOW...

The [Business Action Center](#) is staffed by Spanish-speaking business advocates?

1-866-534-7789

League of Municipalities Address

In November, Lt. Governor Guadagno [keynoted](#) the NJLM's 99th Annual Conference luncheon. Her remarks to the 500-person crowd came on the final day of the three-day conference held at the Atlantic City Convention Center. The NJLM Conference is the largest municipal conference in the nation.

A Night of Hope & Healing

Ending the Administration's annual Season of Service on a high note, Lt. Governor Guadagno joined Pastor Joe Carter and other religious leaders in an evening of prayer and song at the New Hope Baptist Church in Newark. The evening was capped off by a stirring rendition of "O Holy Night" sung by Cissy Houston, mother of Whitney Houston.



LOWERING EDUCATION COSTS FOR SKILLED LABOR

Bolstering her efforts to help lower the cost of higher education and provide opportunities for employment, Lt. Governor Guadagno announced the reinstatement of the award-winning Power Systems Institute (PSI). The partnership between Jersey Central Power & Light (JCP&L), Brookdale Community College and Raritan Valley Community College seeks to train utility line and substation workers. The two-year program combines hands-on utility skills at JCP&L training facilities with technical course work at the community colleges.

"JCP&L's willingness to embrace new and innovative ways to train its future employees through PSI is a model for New Jersey businesses," said Lt. Governor Guadagno. "By ensuring the next generation of utility workers has the skills and education they need to succeed, we are putting New Jersey at the forefront of workforce alignment."



New Jersey Remains The World's Medicine Chest



It was a busy fall for pharmaceutical companies in New Jersey with Sandoz, Inc. and Ferring Pharmaceuticals announcing their commitments to the state.

Showcasing New Jersey's ability to retain life-science companies, Lt. Governor Guadagno joined executives from Sandoz, Inc. to celebrate the grand opening of its new U.S. headquarters in November. The Partnership for Action, which includes the New Jersey Business Action Center and Economic Development Authority, assisted in bringing this project to fruition.

"In addition to its contributions to New Jersey's position as the Medicine Chest of the World, Sandoz has breathed new life into a facility that has been vacant for more than a year," said Lt. Governor Guadagno. "That brings an added boost to the tax base and strengthens the local economy through job creation."

Ferring Pharmaceuticals expanded its footprint in New Jersey with the opening of its new U.S. Operations Center on a 25-acre lot in Parsippany in December. Instead of relocating or outsourcing, Ferring's new center is a sign of the company's continued commitment to New Jersey. The facility recently completed the integration of staff into the state-of-the-art manufacturing suite and product development laboratories. The U.S. Operations Center will house 275 employees.

New Jersey's life science industry is a thriving and crucial part of the State's economy. A recent [report](#) by BioNJ and EY (formerly known as Ernst & Young) found that the estimated annual expenditures by the industry are \$30.1 billion. Since the 2012 report, the number of biotechnology companies operating in New Jersey has increased by 12%, from 340 to 379 companies. Overall, the life sciences industry directly employs and indirectly supports more than 212,000 jobs in the state.

Check out [this recent op-ed](#) by Dean J. Parnicas, President and CEO of the HealthCare Institute of New Jersey, on why New Jersey is an ideal location for the pharmaceutical industry.

Department Of State Spotlight: Office of Faith Based Initiatives

Recognizing organizations that have received grant awards through the Department of State's Office of Faith Based Initiatives (OFBI), Lt. Governor Guadagno visited several grantees, including: [Community Action Service Center](#), also known as Rise: A Community Service Partnership, [Jewish Vocational Services of MetroWest](#) and [Elijah's Promise](#).

OFBI's mission is to eliminate barriers to funding and other resource opportunities, create greater access for partnership and enhance the capacity of faith- and community-based organizations to effectively design and implement successful programs and efficiently manage the day-to-day operations of their organization. In September 2014, OFBI awarded a total of \$1.15 million in grants to 32 organizations. A full list of OFBI grantees is available here: <http://www.nj.gov/state/programs/pdf/ofbi-fy15-grant-awards-by-category-and-county.pdf>.

More information on OFBI is available on its website at: http://www.nj.gov/state/programs/dos_program_faith_based.html.

