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### **DiFrancesco Appoints Dr. Alma McCloud Salter To Lead Abbott Implementation Advisory Council**

Acting Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco has announced his appointment of

Dr. Alma McCloud Salter of New Egypt, Ocean County, as executive director of the Abbott Implementation Advisory Council. As executive director, Dr. Salter will play a major role in helping the 17-member council bring about educational improvement in the state's most disadvantaged communities.

"With her extensive experience in education and community development,

Dr. Salter brings to the council the right blend of skills and perspectives needed to effect positive change for students in the 30 Abbott school districts," DiFrancesco said.

"I welcome Dr. Salter to an exciting and challenging role," said Commissioner of Education Vito A. Gagliardi, Sr. "I look forward to her contributions as we seek new ways to overcome old obstacles -- such as high dropout rates and low test scores -- that block the path to success for too many students. She can count on me to assist her in any way I can."

Dr. Salter is president and owner of AMS Consulting Services, a company that provides services to school districts, nonprofit organizations and state and local governments. Her company managed the training process for IBM to computerize financial processes for the City of Detroit.

Prior to that, she was president and chief executive officer of the Renaissance Community Development Corporation, a faith-based organization. From 1995-97, the company's annual budget increased from \$75,000 to \$2.4 million.

Dr. Salter began her career in the Pittsburgh Public Schools, where she held a variety of teaching and administrative positions, culminating as the city school district's assistant superintendent / director of instruction.

She left there to join the New Century Education Corporation, a company that produced computer-assisted instructional materials, as vice president for research and development. In 1986, she founded the first in a succession of four companies serving varied education and community development needs.

The Abbott Implementation Advisory Council is charged with:

- Reviewing and evaluating urban education reform efforts at the state and local level and relevant research, and recommending policy and operational changes to achieve more meaningful results
- Monitoring and evaluating urban education reform activities at the state and local level and recommending changes in implementation strategies
- Assessing the degree of coordination of government services, higher education and related community services in achieving urban education reform and recommending ways to improve coordination.

Council members consist of nine public members chosen from among local government officials, business and community leaders, the education community and advocates of education and children. Seven are appointed by the Governor, one by the Senate President and one by the Assembly Speaker. The Commissioners of Education, Human Services, Health and Senior Services and the Attorney General, or their designees, are ex-officio members. Four members of the Legislature serve on the panel. Two each are appointed by the Senate President and Assembly Speaker: one from each political party.