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- News Release -

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Christie Administration Kicks Off Retail, Hospitality and Tourism Industry Week

Key New Jersey Industry Sector Highlighted During Week of Events

TRENTON, May 07 2015 – New Jersey’s Retail, Hospitality and Tourism (RHT) Talent Network kicked off its industry week on Monday at the New Jersey Restaurant and Hospitality Association’s Hospitality House in Trenton. The annual event highlights RHT as a key industry sector in New Jersey and provides a platform for business, education and government leaders to explore opportunities for employment and growth.

“The retail, hospitality and tourism industry in New Jersey offers a wide variety of opportunities for employment for individuals with varying levels of education and experience,” said Commissioner Harold J. Wirths of the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development. “With one of every four jobs in the state in the retail, hospitality and tourism sector, we are pleased that our RHT Talent Network is leading efforts to connect employers with qualified workers.”

The RHT Talent Network, created by the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, is one of seven talent networks centering on key industries sectors in the Garden State. This network shares leadership between Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) in North Jersey and the Richard Stockton College in South Jersey because of the extensive programs each institution offers students in hospitality and tourism management.

Deputy Commissioner Aaron Fichtner presented a proclamation from Governor Christie to Sandra Bleckman, director of the RHT (North) Talent Network and to Caitlyn Weiss, director of the RHT (South) Talent Network at the kick-off event which also recognized Marilou Halvorsen, president of the New Jersey Restaurant and Hospitality Association, for her leadership in representing 25,000 hospitality establishments which generate \$14 billion in annual sales.

More than half of New Jersey workers are employed in the seven industry clusters represented by New Jersey talent networks, which account for more than two-thirds of wages paid in the state. The other six industries led by New Jersey talent networks are: Transportation, Logistics and Distribution; Life Sciences; Advanced Manufacturing; Financial Services; Technology and Entrepreneurship; Health Care.

Go to www.RHTTN.com for a full schedule of Retail, Hospitality and Tourism activities.

For more information about New Jersey's Talent Networks go to www.Jobs4Jersey.com.



Deputy Commissioner Aaron Fichtner talks with students from the Jersey City High School culinary program at the Retail, Hospitality and Tourism Industry Week Kick Off Event.