

## PRESS RELEASE

# PCTI Hosts Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno & Guests to Promote CTE School Partnerships

**Wayne, NJ – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** – Passaic County Technical Institute (PCTI) welcomed Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno for the conclusion of her month-long tour that highlighted successful partnerships between New Jersey's Career and Technical Education (CTE) schools and businesses. The collaborative arrangement between PCTI's Academy of Finance (AOF) and Columbia Bank put a spotlight on the branch office on-campus which allows students to receive hands on experience.

Chief School Administrator Diana C. Lobosco welcomed all in attendance with an introduction outlining the educational services PCTI provides. "Our goal is to ensure all students are provided with the best possible opportunities for success through the combination of advanced academics and career and technical education. We practice preparedness and instill within our students the desire to reach their fullest potential, thereby developing the readiness necessary to enter the world after high school."

As the largest Career and Technical High School in New Jersey, PCTI provides 3200 students throughout grades 9-12 with an array of experiences in academics, career and technical education, as well as athletics and after-school activities.

The Academy of Finance was first instituted in 2001 when PCTI opened the first on-campus bank in New Jersey. The program has since flourished and offers training, financial education, school-to-career programs, and financial career opportunities to all AOF students. PCTI partners with Columbia Bank, a mutual savings bank that has 44 branch offices throughout New Jersey. One of these branches is PCTI's very own "living classroom" where students learn while they work. The operation is supervised by Branch Manager and former PCTI graduate, Rafael Salce.

"The ultimate goal for CTE schools is to offer students the opportunity to gain insight and knowledge that will complement their campus coursework, providing them with a competitive edge to succeed in their career of choice," said Lt. Governor Guadagno. "This approach is a unique feature of PCTI's Academy of Finance program of study where students are exposed to an actual branch bank where they are able to get hands on experience. The Christie Administration is excited about the creative steps our CTE schools are taking to make sure our students are workforce ready."

Other PCTI business partners include SaxBST, a public accounting firm in Clifton and J.P. Morgan, represented by Alonso Tangarife, Vice President of Investments. Alfonso has been a guest speaker for academy students on numerous occasions, sharing valuable information on possible career paths in the financial industry.

Lt. Governor Guadagno was accompanied by New Jersey Commissioner of Labor Harold J. Wirths and Director of the State Department of Education's Office of Career and Technical Education Marie Barry. The state officials met with students, educators, and representatives of the school and the academy's partners to learn more about the AOF program. They also enjoyed a tour of PCTI's facilities.

PCTI school representatives who took part in this event included Chief School Administrator Diana C. Lobosco, Assistant Superintendent John Maiello, Principal Dr. Michael Parent, Assistant Principal Joseph Sabbath, Assistant to the Superintendent/Communications/Special Projects Sandra Woods, Supervisor Lydia Yikon'a,

Board of Education President Albert Alexander, Board Vice President Damaris Solomon, School to Careers Coordinator Linda Murphy, and Academy of Finance Instructors Thomas Woods and Maria Matano.

Business partner representatives from Columbia Bank included President/CEO Thomas Kemly, Senior Government Banking Officer Richard Graff, and PCTI Branch Manager Rafael Salce. Also in attendance were SaxBST Accounting Firm Tax Manager, Eddie Riviera and J.P. Morgan Vice President of Investments, Alonso Tangarife, both of whom are PCTI graduates.



**Photo Caption 0617: Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno and guests engage with Academy of Finance students during their tour of PCTI.**