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Kim Guadagno, *Lt. Governor*  
Ford M. Scudder, *State Treasurer*  
Carole Hedinger, *Executive Director*  
*Benefits Education and Institutions*

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## **New Jersey Lottery Director Carole Hedinger Receives Industry Lifetime Achievement Award**

**TRENTON (March 21, 2017)** - Carole Hedinger, New Jersey Lottery executive director, was presented with the 2016 Major Peter J. O'Connell Lottery Industry Lifetime Achievement Award by the Public Gaming Research Institute (PGRI) at a ceremony held in the Park Lane Hotel in Manhattan. Hundreds of her industry peers attended the ceremony. The award was presented in recognition of the important advancements Hedinger has made to the lottery industry and her contributions to the success of her peers over a long period of time.

Director Hedinger has served in various capacities at the New Jersey Lottery providing business acuity, financial guidance and strategic planning for more than 15 years. She served as Executive Director, from June 2010 to present. During her time as Executive Director, she shepherded the Division through an organizational shift that aligned a private contractor, Northstar New Jersey Lottery, LLC, with the public structure to enhance operational efficiency and productivity. After which, in Fiscal Year 2016, the Lottery experienced record setting sales in excess of \$3.29 billion and net funds to beneficiaries that were more than \$987 million.

"Director Hedinger has been instrumental in modernizing the New Jersey Lottery with new games, more advanced technology and a larger retail footprint," said Treasurer Ford Scudder. "Under her leadership, the Lottery is well-positioned to respond to future customer needs in a changing marketplace. The Lottery wouldn't be where it is today without her engagement."

Throughout the years, Mrs. Hedinger worked closely with peers and staff to progress the Lottery industry. She recognized demographic shifts and the need for technological changes within the industry. Her leadership skills and visionary approach resulted in new product offerings that positively impacted the industry as a whole and allowed the 46-year old lottery to continue its expansion well into the future.

"It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with Lottery industry leaders from across the country," Director Hedinger said. "In our industry, we freely share insights, best practices and work cooperatively to achieve optimal results for our beneficiaries and the good causes that Lotteries support. I am humbled when I think of the billions of dollars our organization has generated in support of education and vital institutions benefiting hundreds of thousands of New Jersey's residents."

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Mrs. Hedinger previously served the Division of Lottery as Deputy Executive Director from July 1994 through March 2002, and served as Acting Executive Director from March 2002 through 2003. Prior to her return as Executive Director in 2010, she served as the Chief Clerk of the Ocean County Surrogate Court. Mrs. Hedinger began her career with a public accounting firm, where she worked for over a decade specializing in forensic accounting before beginning her service with the state. Mrs. Hedinger completed her BS in Business Administration at Georgian Court College, where she graduated *magna cum laude*.

Mrs. Hedinger maintains professional memberships with the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants, where she served in several leadership positions including a term as President during 2011. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and serves on the AICPA Council. She currently serves as the Region 1 Director for the National Association of State & Provincial Lotteries (NASPL). Mrs. Hedinger has been previously appointed to serve on Governor Christie's Sports, Gaming & Entertainment Transition Team and Governor Whitman's Education Transition Team. She is the current Chair of the HealthSouth Rehab Hospital Community Advisory Board, former member of the Georgian Court College Planned Giving Council and the Board of Trustees for Stockton University of New Jersey, chairing the Board from 1997-1999. Mrs. Hedinger has been a featured speaker at a variety of Lottery conferences, and she also has addressed both legal and financial organizations.

#### **ABOUT THE MAJOR PETER J. O'CONNELL LOTTERY INDUSTRY LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

The Industry Lifetime Achievement Award was created in 1993 by PGRI to honor Major Peter J. O'Connell, the first director of the Rhode Island Lottery. Major O'Connell personified integrity and dedication, which are the attributes exemplified by recipients of the award. The recipients of this award are selected by a jury of Lottery directors and executives. The recipients of the award have distinguished themselves over a long period of time and have made important contributions to the success of their peers, as well as the lottery industry.

#### **ABOUT THE NEW JERSEY LOTTERY**

Since its inception in 1970, the New Jersey Lottery (NJLottery.com) has contributed nearly \$25 billion to the State in support of education and institutions.

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