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N E W S R E L E A S E

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Whitman to deliver 15th governor's lecture Oct. 14

Christine Todd Whitman will deliver the 15th Governor's Lecture in the Humanities on Oct. 14 at the Lied Center for Performing Arts in Lincoln.

Presented by the Nebraska Humanities Council (NHC), the University of Nebraska and the E. N. Thompson Forum on World Issues, the lecture begins at 7:30 p.m.

Whitman was governor of New Jersey from 1994 through 2000, the state's first woman chief executive, and served in the cabinet of President George W. Bush as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from January 2001 to June 2003. She is president of The Whitman Strategy Group (WSG), a consulting firm that specializes in energy and environmental issues. WSG has been at the forefront of helping leading companies find innovative solutions to environmental challenges.

Whitman will speak on "Staying Ahead While Going Green," as part of the Thompson Forum's 2010-2011 emphasis on Globalization's Promise. "We are very excited to bring such a globally recognized speaker to our state to discuss energy and environmental sustainability," said Governor's Lecture Chair Lana Flagtvet. "Here in Nebraska there is a lot of interest in alternative energy sources and complex water issues, for example, and Governor Whitman's deep understanding of competing viewpoints on these topics should make for a terrific humanities discussion."

As governor, Whitman earned praise from both Republicans and Democrats for her commitment to preserve a record amount of New Jersey land as permanent green space. She was also recognized by the Natural Resources Defense Council for instituting the most comprehensive beach monitoring system in the nation.

As EPA administrator, she promoted common-sense environmental improvements such as watershed-based water protection policies. She championed regulations requiring non-road diesel engines to reduce sulfur emissions by more than 95 percent. She also established the first federal program to promote redevelopment and reuse of "brownfields," previously contaminated industrial sites.

Whitman serves on the board of directors of the Council on Foreign Relations and was co-chair with Anthony Lake for the council's 2006 task force on U.S. policy towards Africa. She co-chairs Clean and Safe Energy (CASE).

A fundraising reception and dinner will be held before the lecture to support the NHC's statewide programming. For details, contact Julie MacDonald at the Nebraska Humanities Council at (402) 474-2131 ext. 110 or julie@nebraskahumanities.org

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Editor's Note: For a complete biography or a photo of Christine Whitman, contact Aimee Poor at the Nebraska Humanities Council at (402) 474-2131 ext. 102 or at aimee@nebraskahumanities.org.