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The Honorable James L. Collins, Chief Information Officer

GOVERNOR JACK MARKELL PROCLAIMS OCTOBER 2015 CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

AT LAKE FOREST CENTRAL ELEMENTARY'S CYBER SAFETY ASSEMBLY

[Dover] —Governor Jack Markell and Delaware's Chief Information Officer (CIO) James Collins launched Cyber Security Awareness Month in Delaware in the company of 300 fourth grade students, teachers, staff and Lake Forest School Board members. The Governor signed a formal proclamation signifying that Delaware is joining a growing global effort among colleges, universities, businesses, government agencies, associations, nonprofit organizations, and individuals to promote online safety awareness.

Celebrated every October, National Cyber Security Awareness Month was created as a collaborative effort between government and industry to ensure everyone has the resources needed to stay safe and secure online. The Department of Technology and Information leads the program in Delaware and works to tailor cyber education and awareness materials to meet the needs of all Delawareans from students to seniors to small businesses.

"The Internet has transformed every aspect of our society," said Governor Markell. "It has created tremendous new opportunities for our people and provides a wonderful resource for our students. But the growing importance of online activity also means we must increase our focus on safety and security, from protecting our networks from hackers to rooting out cyberbullying. I'm pleased to recognize October as Cyber Security Awareness month in Delaware to emphasize that we all have a shared responsibility to use and promote safe cyber practices."

DTI first celebrated Cyber Security Awareness Month in 2006, with a few small public outreach activities. One of the most important and popular programs began that year when an interactive presentation was developed to take the stay safe online message to Delaware students. The program has grown each year and over 33,000 fourth graders statewide have benefitted from the information. A core of volunteer presenters from state government, Delaware Technical and Community College, Verizon, JP Morgan Chase give their time to visit children in their own schools and share their knowledge.

“One of the things I’m most proud of at DTI is the ability to share our staff’s broad knowledge with others. Our fourth grade presentation program is exceptional because it reinforces the computer education already being taught in our schools. Cyber safety should be a part of every school’s curriculum” said CIO Collins.

DTI’s award winning cyber security website is the focus of several marketing efforts using various media sources to direct Delawareans to the website. It is updated continuously and provides information and resources for nearly every cyber safety question.

The Governor encourages all Delawareans to take the opportunity to increase their cyber awareness during October and to spread the word among their family, friends and colleagues. One of the easiest ways to start is to visit <http://digiknow.dti.delaware.gov/>.

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