

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Girl Scouts to honor Kate Hackett, Executive Director of Delaware Wild Lands, as their 2017 Woman of Distinction

ODESSA, Del. – Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay will bestow **Kate Hackett**, Executive Director of Delaware Wild Lands, with their 2017 Woman of Distinction Award on March 14, 2017 at the Hotel du Pont in Wilmington.

The Honorary Chair of the 18th Annual Woman of Distinction celebration is **Dr. Nancy Targett**, the first woman president of the University of Delaware and now provost at the University of New Hampshire.

Honoree Ms. Hackett has more than 20 years of leadership experience in land and water conservation and management. Her work in the environmental arena includes land acquisition, protection of land and water resources, public policy, government relations, fundraising, and constituency building. When Governor Carney was elected, he appointed her to serve on his Transition Team.

Throughout her career, Ms. Hackett has led regional initiatives that improve the quality of natural resources while also protecting the economic vitality of working landscapes. She has collaborated on these issues with a broad range of stakeholders in various regions, including the Mid-Atlantic, the Rocky Mountains, the Great Lakes, and northeastern Africa (Nairobi, Kenya, and Eritrea).

The Women of Distinction event also features a pre-dinner panel discussion, moderated by Ms. Hackett, with four distinguished career women. An audience of 65 teen Girl Scouts will be invited to ask questions about each panelist's professional path.

Participating in the panel will be **Natalia Duchini**, Marketing Executive and Chemical Engineer for The Chemours Company; **Danielle Kreeger, PhD**, Science Director at the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary; **Yolanda Williams-Bey, PhD**, Education Program Manager for Delaware Environmental Institute (DENIN) at UD; and **Florence Williams**, prize-winning science journalist and author of the new book, *THE NATURE FIX: Why Nature Makes Us Happier, Healthier, and More Creative*.

"This is a wonderful honor, and I'm delighted that the theme for this year's event is *Nurturing Nature*," said Ms. Hackett. "The 2017 Woman of Distinction celebration will inspire influential adults as well as future female leaders about the importance of the natural environment to our society. My hope is that each person who attends will leave with a better understanding of how nature directly and profoundly impacts public health, individual well-being, and economic vitality."

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Delaware Wild Lands (DWL) is a nonprofit conservation organization founded in 1961. We are the largest not-for-profit, non-governmental landowner in Delaware, with significant land holdings in all three counties. Our organization has played a pivotal role in the permanent protection of more than 31,000 acres of land throughout Delmarva. Today we own more than 21,000 acres of wetlands, farms, and forests that are actively managed for improved wildlife habitat, clean air, and pure water. To learn more, visit www.dewildlands.org

Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay builds girls of courage, confidence and character by providing personal leadership development and programs that teach skills for the real world. To learn more, visit www.GSCB.org.