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SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

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CONNECTICUT WINS INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR ONLINE BUSINESS STARTUP TOOL

SECRETARY MERRILL LAUNCHED WEB-BASED PROGRAM TO HELP
ENTREPRENEURS SUCCESSFULLY START BUSINESS VENTURES IN JANUARY;
RECOGNIZED BY INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMERCIAL
ADMINISTRATORS

HARTFORD: Secretary of the State Denise Merrill today announced that Connecticut has won a Merit award for the online business startup tool launched by her office in January. The award was recently presented by the International Association of Commercial Administrators (IACA) at its annual conference. Connecticut joins award winners from Australia, Colorado, Jersey Channel Islands, New Zealand and Vermont. IACA annually recognizes government jurisdictions that implement successful and innovative changes; this year's theme was helping and supporting businesses and the criteria for the award included: the effectiveness of the program developed, its originality, the significance and transferability of the program, and the lessons learned while implementing it. Secretary Merrill's online business startup tool is a web-based program designed to enable entrepreneurs to quickly register new and foreign businesses and connect them with state and federal agencies needed for licensing, labor and tax regulations. It also helps them develop a business plan and direct them to financing information.

"We are very pleased and honored to receive this award, as our goal in launching this online tool is to help entrepreneurs navigate their way through state and federal agencies they may need to get their business ventures up and running," said Secretary Merrill, Connecticut's chief business registrar. "With today's technology, the public rightly expects government to provide more services and information online. If we do our part to help local businesses succeed, then our entrepreneurs can generate more profits, create more jobs, and increase the flow of capital into our economy."

The online business startup tool on the Secretary of the State's website provides users with the paperwork and information needed to register a business, and links to regulatory information from various government agencies including the Connecticut Departments of: Consumer Protection, Energy and Environmental Protection, Labor, Revenue Services, and the Connecticut Licensing Information Center. There are also links to the federal Internal Revenue Service, Trade Commission, and Small Business Administration. The tool is available online at: www.sots.ct.gov.