



ESSEX COUNTY EXECUTIVE DIVINCENZO RECOGNIZES EMPLOYEES DURING COUNTY'S SEPTEMBER TEAMWORK AWARD PROGRAM

L TO R: Aundrea Williams, Quantet Walker, Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., Salvatore Lima, Sgt. Gregory Bertelloni and Officer Ron Gholson.

Newark, NJ – Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. presented the monthly Essex County Teamwork Awards for July to three Essex County employees and a student from the Essex County Vocational Technical School District. Teamwork Awards recognize employees for their hard work, dedication and willingness to provide quality service and highlights student achievement. The County Executive also presented two Certificates of Achievement to two employees.

Aundrea Williams has been with the Essex County Juvenile Detention Center since 1996, serving with distinction in several positions. Currently, he is an Investigator in the Internal Affairs Unit, one of the most significant sections of the facility. It is his job to investigate complaints, particularly about the actions of the staff. It calls for persistence and tact, an iron hand in a velvet glove, so to speak. Aundrea knows a lot about teamwork, which he learned as a football player for Delaware State University and as a coach at high schools throughout Newark and East Orange. In fact, he was assistant coach of the 2007 Westside High team that won the Group 3 Section 2 State Football Championship. He believes that one of his greatest successes is the mentoring of his nephew Elijah Shumate, a star player on the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame.

Sergeant Gregory Bartelloni, who joined the Essex County Department of Corrections in 1996, has been an important member of the team. During the five years he spent as an investigator in the Internal Affairs and Gang Unit, he and his squad were responsible for thwarting a number of escape attempts. A member of the original Cell Extraction Unit, Greg has received several Wardens' citations in recognition of outstanding service. As a Line Supervisor (he was promoted to Sergeant in 2007), Greg serves as the Quality Control Coordinator for the Federal ICE program, assuring the staff maintains the professional standards required under the Performance Based National Detention Standards. He and his unit give significant help in meeting the challenge of managing the ICE detainees and fulfilling our contractual obligations. A native of Newark, he now lives in Fairfield with his three children. His advice to those seeking a career in modern corrections is to remember that, "Communication is paramount... being able to communicate with all people, no matter the situation, allows for a safe and secure environment." He exhibits this trait, daily.

Quantet Walker has worked in the Essex County Sheriff's Office, Bureau of Criminal Identification for six years. She organizes and validates the incident reports, accident reports and tow reports, as the liaison with local municipal courts. She also submits the Uniform Crime Report to the New Jersey State Police. Ms. Walker is extremely knowledgeable, and performs her work at the highest level, needing very little supervision. She exhibits the same competence and dedication to the New Jersey National Guard. We are proud of her service to our country, and glad that she has returned safely from her two tours in Iraq.

Salvatore Lima, Science teacher at ECVTS-West Caldwell Tech, was named Essex County Teacher of the Year. Chosen by a panel of administrators, teachers, parents and county education representatives, Mr. Lima is now in the running for State teacher of the year, and eligible for the national title. As the Essex County honoree, he will serve as an ambassador of effective educational techniques throughout the district and County for the current school year. In addition to teaching Environmental Science to Freshmen and Biology to Sophomores, he is the chair of the Science Department, Boys Varsity Volleyball coach and was President of the 2012 School Leadership Team.

Officer Ron Gholson, a distinguished officer at the Essex County Correctional Facility, was selected as 2014 Correctional Officer of the Year from a staff of more than 700 other employees. He is a living testament of what commitment, devotion and resolve can accomplish. A Veteran of the US Army, PT and Firearms instructor and Sgt. of Arms for CTAC, he is dedicated to improving the image of Corrections as a profession. One step of building morale in his Department came from him. He took a team of officers, many lacking formal military background, and molded them into one of the finest honor guard details in the state. His professionalism and positive demeanor lifts the spirits and attitude of all staff...colleagues, superiors and civilians.