



L TO R: Marilyn Crespo, Juan Hernandez, A'Quia Spain, Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., Maria Galera and Mark Zebersky

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

Newark, NJ – Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. presented the monthly Essex County Teamwork Awards for February 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 the achievements of students attending the County's Vocational Schools. A Certificate of Appreciation was also given to one student from Newark Collegiate Academy.

Maria Galera, a senior in the Nursing Shop at Essex County Newark Tech, currently holds a 4.09 Grade Point Average and is on target to be the Valedictorian of her class. She is a member of the All-Star Leadership Program, the National Honor Society and the Future Business Leaders of America. Maria is following her professional goal – nursing, with membership in the Health Occupations Student Organization. Her volunteer work at UMDNJ and the North Jersey Community Research Institute is giving her a good picture of the duties and responsibilities she will face as she pursues her career. Maria was selected as a participant for the Sadie Nash Leadership Project, and was the 1st place essay contest winner for the Essex County Bar Association.

A'Quia Spain, a senior honor roll student at Newark Collegiate Academy, served as an intern in the Essex County Office of Public Information over the course of eight weeks, as part of her school's Service Learning Program. Her project was to revise the outdated County Information Packet that is distributed throughout the State, mainly to school students studying county government. A'Quia is well-rounded student, who is active in her school and community. She is undecided about which college she will attend, but is planning to double major in history and occupational therapy.

Juan Hernandez joined the Essex County Juvenile Detention Facility in March of 2008. From the moment he arrived, it was obvious that his work ethic would be an asset. He mastered the skills of food preparation and quantity cooking quickly, and his professional pride in his work in the cafeteria is well-deserved. Among his responsibilities is to work with clients in the Community Work Experience Program and train clients to work in the laundry room. Respected and well-liked by his co-workers, Juan takes on an assigned task with seriousness and completes it with efficiency. We thank him for his many contributions to the facility and Essex County.

Marilyn Crespo joined the Essex County Prosecutor's Office in 2008 as assistant to Executive Assistant Prosecutor Audra McCoy Johnson. Her solid grounding in Spanish is helpful in her position in the Prosecutor's Office. On a regular basis, Marilyn is responsible for handling personnel matters and expungements. A graduate of Barringer High, Marilyn studied computer science and business at NJIT and Empire Technical School, and worked in the hotel and travel industry until 2008. She is being recognized for her ability to help, whatever task is on the table, often over and above the call of duty. Always friendly and helpful, she willingly takes on a new project – solves problem – and creates new procedures to complete the task in a timely and effective manner. The ECPO certainly runs more smoothly with Marilyn's help.

Mark Zebersky came to Essex County to consult on the design and build-out of the technology infrastructure for the newly constructed Essex County Correctional Facility. He did so well, he was named IT Manager in 2006 and has made significant contributions to improve operations at the Facility. He developed his strong background in Information Technology during his 10-year tenure as a VP and IT Manager for Valley National Bank and from serving as Supervisor of Data Systems for Bergen County for three years. The work Mark does truly makes the Facility run more smoothly, particularly in the area of video court hearings. Over 300,000 video court sessions are convened each year, saving taxpayers millions in transportation costs and freeing Sheriff's Officers for other duties.