



L TO R: Loretta Melito, Sue Ortiz-Hands, Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., and Officer Terry Johnson

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

Newark, NJ – Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. presented the monthly Essex County Teamwork Awards to three Essex County employees. Teamwork Awards recognize employees for their hard work, dedication and willingness to provide quality service.

Loretta Melito joined the Essex County Department of Citizen Services, Division of Senior Services, in 1992 as a Receptionist. She has since become the State-Wide Respite Program Coordinator and is responsible for generating and submitting all reports for the County Division of Senior Services to the State Department of Health and Senior Services for the Respite, Home Health, Day Care and In-Patient Services. Over the years, Loretta has not only earned the respect of her peers, but of the Aging network providers as well. She has formed great relationships with State, local and County respite representatives.

Officer Terry Johnson has been a Corrections Officer with the Essex County Department of Corrections for 13 years. Officer Johnson is assigned to the main kitchen where she supervises 25 inmate workers who are responsible for preparing meals for the 2,100 inmates at the Essex County Correctional Facility. She began working for Essex County in 1994 as an Officer at the old Newark Jail, and upon arrival at the new Correctional Facility, was assigned to provide direct supervision in an inmate pod.

Sue Ortiz-Hands, Personnel Liaison and Assistant to the Director, recently added Finance Administrator of the Department of Health & Rehabilitation, Division of Community Health Services to her list of duties. Sue has been with the County for 23 years. She began as a temporary employee in 1984 through the Essex County Vocational School's work-study program. After graduation, she began full time as a Clerk in the Office of Management and Budget. Many departments have benefitted from her expertise, as she has worked for the Department of Public Works, the Superintendent of Elections and the Economic Development Corporation. Ortiz currently helps the Economic Development Corporation two days a week, administering the agency's finances.