



L TO R: Laura Toombs, Martha Curry, Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., Sherisse Keat and Neil Molinaro

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

Newark, NJ – Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. presented the monthly Essex County Teamwork Awards to three Essex County employees and one student attending 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.

Sherisse Keat, a senior at Essex County Bloomfield Tech, is on the Honor Roll and a member of the National Honor Society, where she has served as a tutor for other students. Sherisse is also an active member of the STAND Club, an organization that raises awareness about the tragedy in Darfur, has served as an officer in the Future Business Leaders of America Club and was a member of the school's Consumer Bowl Team for the last two years. She is currently helping to plan the district's annual school fair, where she previously served as a guide for students interested in attending Bloomfield Tech. Sherisse plans to pursue her Bachelor's Degree in Medicine next fall, but is still deciding between New York University and Syracuse University.

Martha Curry, now serving as the Assistant Administrative Supervisor of Family Service, joined the Essex County Department of Citizen Services, Division of Welfare in 1975. Serving as a Family Service Supervisor assigned to the Food Stamp Reconciliation Unit of the Office of Fraud Prevention and Investigational Services, she is responsible for supervising the daily operation of the unit, establishing and collecting overpayments attributed to Intentional Program Violations (IPV), Inadvertent Household Error (IHE) and Agency Error. Her ability to ensure that claims are entered into the nationwide Electronic Disqualified Recipient System (eDRS), insures that an overpayment is repaid to Essex County even if the debtor moves out of New Jersey. The Management Evaluation of the Essex County Food Stamp Program issued for 2010 made specific mention of Mr. Curry's performance, noting that Essex County is "actively establishing overpayments and pursuing the collection of outstanding balances".

Laura Toombs began working for the County in 1980 as a Clerk Typist in the Office of Human Resources (at the time, the Office of Personnel). Her hard work and attention to detail caught the attention of the Personnel Directors who served from 1980 to 2000, and Laura steadily increased her responsibilities and title. For the last 10 years, she has been a key figure in the Office of Essex County Administrator as the Office Services Manager. Her organizational skills are legendary and she is always willing to assist in special programs, such as the Heart Walk for the American Heart Association.

Neil Molinaro joined the Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs as a Summer Laborer at Branch Brook Tennis Courts, and in 1974 became a full-time Park Caretaker at the Branch Brook Garage. Over the years, Neil has worked at various parks, being promoted to positions of greater responsibility as he exhibited dedication to his responsibilities, and a good eye for detail. In 2005, Neil was assigned to Parks Administration, in his current title of Coordinator of Contractual Operations, where he is responsible for the preparation and distribution of all specifications associated with bid solicitation. He also manages all the service