



L TO R: Sandy Hooker, Charles Rasheed, Faatimah Jafiq, Jeffrey Mitchell, and Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.

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 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.

Faatimah Jafiq is senior in the Illustration and Design Shop at the Bloomfield Tech Campus of the Essex County Vocational School System. Faatimah is a well-rounded student who excels in both her scholastic and extra-curricular activities. She has been an active member of the Future Business Leaders of America Club and the National Honor Society, where she heads up the annual food drive and has served as a tutor for underclass members. She also participated in the NJ Leap Program at Seton Hall University, which has prepared her for a future in a variety of professions. One of her most successful activities at NJ Leap has been as a debater. After graduation, Faatimah wishes to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in either English, Art History or International Relations, but has not decided which college she will attend.

Charles Rasheed has been a welding instructor in the Essex County Vocational-Technical School System for over 25 years and serves as a role model for all of his students and colleagues. His ability to teach his students welding skills is exhibited by the numerous awards they win each year at the New Jersey Craftsman Fair, a showcase for work done by Vo-Tech students across the state. As an Adult Evening School Instructor, Mr. Rasheed maintains contact with former students, years after they have graduated. He is also known as the "Teacher of Teachers," because two of his former students have served as welding instructors in our Vo-Tech school district. In addition to his teaching responsibilities in the class room, Mr. Rasheed is also a basketball coach at Bloomfield Tech. In 2006, he was recognized for his dedication to the students of Bloomfield Tech, as he received both the Teacher of the Year and Coach of the Year awards.

Jeffrey Mitchell has been a Corrections Officer Since in the Essex County Department of Corrections since February 1996. In the past 15 years, he has become, according to his Department Director, the "quintessential Custody Officer and an example to be followed." In his most recent assignment, he deals with a diverse population of prisoners who, for a wide variety of reasons, need to be isolated from others in the institution. Jeffrey is also called upon to serve as a Field Training Officer for newly hired corrections officers, familiarizing them with various techniques for interacting with the inmate population, addressing inmate issues and maintaining order in the housing unit. His insight and experience made him an outstanding candidate to serve as principal staff member working with administrative staff on the reorganization of the Correction Facility's protective custody area.

Sandy Hooker has worked as a Clerk Typist for the Essex County Department of Citizen Services, Division of Training and Employment for nine years. As the Lead Receptionist on the 3rd Floor of the 50 South Clinton Street building, which is one of the busiest direct service locations in Essex County, she is the 'face' of the Division for the hundreds of clients coming to the office each day. Her calm demeanor and smile are particularly valuable at this time of economic stress, when the world has been turned upside down for so many people. Sandy is a team player, never late for work, and always willing to lend a hand. No matter what is asked, she is always willing to go that extra mile for the Division.