



**L TO R: Officer Chantel Johnson, Officer Tyrone Williams, Nicholas Romano, Captain William Jenkins, Jr., Amina Thornhill, Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., and Amirah Yancey**

## **ESSEX COUNTY EXECUTIVE DIVINCENZO RECOGNIZES EMPLOYEES DURING COUNTY'S DECEMBER 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 two students from the Essex County Vocational School District. A special County Executive Achievement Award was also given out. 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.

**Officer Tyrone Williams**, a Corrections Officer with the Essex County Department of Corrections was honored with the Essex County Executive's Appreciation Award for helping to solve a murder. Officer Williams noticed a suspicious taxi cab on an East Orange street. He approached the vehicle and found the taxi cab driver dead. He immediately summoned the East Orange Police Department. While awaiting them, he spoke with a witness and got detailed information. Because of his efforts the suspect was immediately apprehended and arrested. Officer Williams remained on scene for several hours to assist in the investigation and his actions and involvement were credited by the East Orange Police Department and the Essex County Prosecutor's Office as the reason this murder was immediately solved. Appreciation Awards are given for extraordinary services on and off the job.

**Amirah Yancey**, Senior Class President, is an Honor Roll student in the Architectural Design & Drafting shop at the Essex County Vocational School District's Bloomfield Tech who travelled to China this past summer as a student ambassador with the People to People program. Yancey, a well rounded student, is a member of the varsity basketball team, the student council, and also served as manager for the girls' volleyball team at Newark Tech. Amirah is undecided about what college she will attend next fall, but plans to major in Psychology.

**Amina Thornhill**, a senior at the Essex County Vocational School District's North 13<sup>th</sup> Street Center, is an honor roll student ranking in the top 15% of her senior class. Her academic prowess is evident. She was inducted into the National Honor Society, the Health Occupation Students of America and was named Student of the Month in October 2004. Thornhill is a three-sport athlete, receiving athletic awards as a member of the girls' volleyball, basketball and softball teams. She also spends time volunteering for the March Against Breast Cancer, all North 13<sup>th</sup> Street Center fundraisers and raffles, various Thanksgiving food and cell phone drives. This past summer Amina also worked as a Teacher's Assistant at the United Neighbors Day Care Center.

**Officer Chantel Johnson** has been a Corrections Officer with the Essex County Department of Corrections for 10 years. She is assigned to a Quarantine Housing Unit where she is responsible for managing and monitoring inmates that are entering the Essex County Correctional Facility for the first time. She began working for Essex County in 1997 as a Clerk in the Office of the Sheriff and joined the Essex County Department of Corrections a year later. During her first month as an officer she was taken hostage during an inmate escape. Although she was traumatized by this event, she has persevered and now celebrates her 10<sup>th</sup> year of service. Officer Johnson is a second generation law enforcement officer. Her mother is a retired Lieutenant with the Essex County Department of Corrections and her father, a retired Detective, who was the first African-American Police Officer in the Hillside Police Department.

**Captain William Jenkins, Jr.** is a Supervisor of Juvenile Detention Officers with the Essex County Department of Citizen Services, Division of Youth Services. He is responsible for the complete operation and security of the Essex County Juvenile Detention Center facility during his shift, supervising the assigned staff of detention officers and sergeants. Jenkins has been with the County for 21 years, working his way up from a part-time officer, Sergeant and now Captain. He 'leads by example,' working tirelessly to ensure that overtime is kept to a minimum on his shifts. His dedication and professionalism make him an excellent role-model for new officers and the juveniles in the Detention Center.

**Nicholas Romano** is the Assistant Chief Clerk in the Office of the Essex County Clerk. Romano has been with the County for over 22 years, serving four County clerks. He began as a Senior Account Clerk and is known as the "go to guy" for all passport, notary and County I.D. inquiries. New regulations were instituted by the Federal Government to make passports the only form of identification accepted while travelling. As a result, the number of application requests increased significantly in the County Clerk's Office this year. They rose to the challenge and continue to meet the constituent's needs every day, largely due to the efforts of Romano.