



**L TO R: Chris Taylor, Holt Walker, III, Andre Perez, Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., Nick Bonavita and Freeholder President Blonnie R. Watson**

## **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 one student from the Essex County Vocational 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.

**Andre Perez** is an Honor Roll student in the Electrical Maintenance and Construction Program at the Essex County Vocational-Technical School District's Bloomfield Tech Campus. He is concentrating in direct and alternating current, DC generators and motors, single and 3 phase AC motors, light and power wiring and single phase transformers. Perez is a well-rounded student who is involved in several extra-curricular activities in school and the community. Andre was inducted into the National Honor Society and is a member of the Drama Club and the boys' soccer team at Bloomfield Tech, where he received NJTIL All-Conference Team recognition. Andre is known for his humanitarian spirit and can always be found helping others. He is an after school volunteer at his former elementary school, First Avenue School in Newark, and tutors other high school students. Andre is also a member of the Sea Cadets Program and the Customs Boarder and Protection Explorers Program. After high school, he plans to join the United States Navy to pursue his dream of becoming a Navy Seal.

**Nick Bonavita** has worked in the Essex County Department of Public Works as the Wage and Compliance Officer for eight months. He travels throughout the County to various sites where contractors are working on County projects to ensure that all contractors and sub-contractors are in compliance with wage and hiring procedures. In addition, Nick assumed the role of Secretary to the Construction Board of Appeals in June, where he quickly grasped the workings of the Board and the procedures used to apply for an appeal. He is instrumental in overseeing the complex appeal process from the initial board request to the final resolution phase. Although he has only been with the County a short period of time, he has had an immediate impact on the department.

**Chris Taylor** is a Systems Analyst in the Office of the Clerk to the Board of Chosen Freeholders. The Clerk's Office is the repository for all resolutions, ordinances and other important papers for Essex County, and during his 18 years with Essex County, Chris has helped implement many significant updates to the record-keeping systems. A member of the County IT Committee, he oversaw the computerization of the Legislative Branch, assisted in bringing the first high-speed internet connection to the Hall of Records, and is now preserving 300-plus years of County records digitally. Chris also sits on the IBEW Local 1158 Negotiating team, sets up for Freeholder events and does an outstanding job of decorating the 5<sup>th</sup> floor for the holiday season. Chris' skills and creativity have improved citizen access to County records, and his willingness to share his knowledge has helped resolve computer problems far beyond his job description.

**Holt Walker, III**, an Investigator in the Office of the Essex County Prosecutor, will begin his 15<sup>th</sup> year of service to Essex County in January. He is assigned to the Cease Fire Task Force Vertical Court, which is a special unit that prosecutes shootings which occur within Irvington and Newark. Walker's responsibilities include preparing these cases for the Grand Jury and Trial, ordering all pertinent reports, interviewing witnesses and obtaining statements. Holt has earned the trust and respect of his peers through his uncompromising integrity and openness, his leadership and willingness to support new employees, and his all-encompassing sense of teamwork. As a Free and Accepted Mason, he participates in activities such as awarding scholarships to college students, distributing food to local food banks and supporting local Pop Warner sport teams.