



**L TO R: Jaleel Ritchwood, Officer Rhonda Yates, Debra Marvel, Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., and Eva Yanez**

**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 for December to three Essex County employees and one student from the Essex County Vocational Technical School District.

**Jaleel Ritchwood** is a senior at the Essex County Vocational Technical School District's North 13<sup>th</sup> Street Campus. His passion is the performing arts and music, and his energy, dedication and talent are on display in many ways. Last spring, he starred as Walter Lee, the lead in Lorraine Hansberry's play "*A Raisin in the Sun*," and now, he is the director of the school's choir, which he helped to create. Jaleel is President of the Future Business Leaders of America Club (FBLA), which is an organization that teaches students the skills needed to excel in business. He leads the group in many events that benefit those in need, like collecting food for food banks or toys for toy drives, and gathering participants for The March of Dimes and Breast Cancer walk-a-thons. Because of his leadership the FBLA Club had its largest 9<sup>th</sup> grade student enrollment this year. He is also a member of the Student Council, which hosts bake sales and school dances to raise funds for a variety of organizations.

**Debra Marvel**, Deputy Clerk to the Board of Chosen Freeholders began her 31 year career with Essex County in the Probation Department. Debra's responsibilities include organizing the clerical functions of the staff, supervising payroll and signing and certifying various documents. She also serves as the liaison between the Freeholders and the Clerk with the other County offices and employees. Since the Clerk's Office is also the repository for all official county documents ~ resolutions, ordinances, and other items of note, Debra has a hand in maintaining the history of Essex County, a valuable service to students and scholars. While the office was transitioning between Clerks, Debra stepped up and provided the necessary leadership that allowed the office to continue operating smoothly.

**Officer Rhonda Yates** has been an Officer in the Essex County Department of Corrections for 20 years and has served in a variety of positions. Previously, she had assignments at both the Main Jail in Newark and the Jail Annex in North Caldwell, so she has been with the Department through the change in custody operations at Doremus Avenue. At the new facility, she is currently a Housing Unit Officer, responsible for the direct supervision of sixty (60) male inmates. Rhonda has received a number of Warden's Citations for her professionalism and dedication to duty, and has been decorated by the PBA for bravery and valor. She is a member of the National Black Officer's Association, and was an original member of the Department's Honor Guard. Her competency and positive attitude make her a departmental role model, and earns the respect of both her supervisors and peers.

**Eva Yanez** is a Bilingual Supervising Clerk-Typist in charge of elections in the Office of the County Clerk. She began working in 1989 as a Clerk Typist with the Essex County Police Department Special Operations Unit. Since 1991 she has worked in several different capacities in the Essex County Clerk's Election Unit and the Board of Elections, where was responsible for many details of the Election Board Workers' training, scheduling and polling site compliance and helping to count the absentee and provisional ballots. When she returned to the Clerk's Office in 2006, she became the go-to election guide. Today she oversees the vote-by-mail application process, assists in ballot preparation and coordinates the vote tabulations from our 22 municipalities, and helped implement the on-line election result technology that citizens can access. She is also the Office Coordinator and a participant in the Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Awareness Walk.