



L TO R: Raymond Clark, Marie Joseph, Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., Jim Hunter and Sgt. Steven Alese

ESSEX COUNTY EXECUTIVE DIVINCENZO RECOGNIZES EMPLOYEES DURING COUNTY'S FEBRUARY 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.

Marie Joseph, a senior at the North 13th Street Tech Campus of the Essex County Vocational School System, is a member of the National Honor Society, Future Business Leaders of America Club, Student Council, the Lady Cougar Cheerleading team and serves as a Senior Mentor. In addition to her school activities, she volunteers for many noteworthy causes and is known for her exceptional fundraising abilities. Marie always has close to 100% participation from the school staff for all of her fundraisers. Marie has received several college acceptances, but she is still undecided about which school she will attend in the fall.

Sgt. Steven Alese joined the Essex County Department of Corrections in 2004 as a Custodial Housing Officer, where he had daily interaction with the entire inmate population, including high profile and high-risk gang members. After graduating from the Police Academy in 2006, Sgt. Alese was assigned to the Department of Correction's Policy and Planning Unit. He ranked first on the New Jersey Civil Service Commission promotional exam and was promoted to sergeant in 2009 and is now the Supervisor of the Unit. His seven years of experience makes him a valuable asset and resource to the Department.

Raymond Clark is a Youth Advocate in the Department of Citizen Services, Division of Youth Services. This high-profile and vital position is the link between the youth awaiting adjudication with the judicial and detention units. Ray is the voice of the juveniles in regard to medical, dental, and mental health care, living conditions, safety and schooling. One of his recent accomplishments is the updated Resident Handbook, given to new detainees at orientation. Due to his efforts, it is now available in Spanish. He is truly an inspiration for the young men and women he represents, and an exemplary role model for the younger staff members at the facility.

Jim Hunter joined the Essex County Prosecutor's Office 18 years ago. As Agent to the Prosecutor, he oversees all administrative functions, impacting every single member of the Office. Jim's demeanor gives each person the sense that his/her problem is important and will be resolved diplomatically. During the past four years, Jim has also spearheaded all construction and renovation projects in a seamless manner. His sense of responsibility to the improvement of others led him, and six other African-American HR professionals, to create a unique program aimed at strengthening the language and speaking skills of African-American youth, so they could advance in their professional careers. New Jersey Orators, developed in 1985, now has over 15 New Jersey chapters and a unit in South Africa, serving over 500 young people with 200 volunteers.