



L TO R: Ramon Cruz, Marjorie Sherman, Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., Viviana Elcock, and Bickram Singh

ESSEX COUNTY EXECUTIVE DIVINCENZO RECOGNIZES EMPLOYEES & STUDENT DURING COUNTY'S MAY 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. In addition, an employee was recognized with the Essex County Leadership Award.

Viviana Elcock, a senior in the Architectural and Design shop at the Essex County Vocational School District's Bloomfield Tech, is a Principal's Honor Roll student who will be attending Rutgers University in the fall. Her academic prowess is evident as she has been accepted into several competitive universities: Cornell University, Lehigh University, Carnegie Mellon University, Rutgers University, University of Maryland and Cedar Crest College. Elcock is a well-rounded student who is a member of the National Honor Society, Finance Club, and the varsity girls' volleyball team and softball team where she served as co-captain. Viviana understands the importance of teamwork in the school community and is often involved with her classmates organizing fundraisers and tutoring programs.

Bickram Singh joined the Essex County Vocational School District in 1997 as a Mathematics teacher and is currently the Supervisor of Basic Skills. With his guidance, all four high schools have attained the highest recognition for student achievement in the district's history. For his efforts, he was honored by the National Association of Title I Directors as one of the district's two representatives accepting the 2008 Distinguished School Award on behalf of Bloomfield Tech, the only New Jersey secondary school to be recognized by the NJ Department of Education. Singh was also named 2003-2004 District Teacher of the Year and has instituted many initiatives throughout the district to improve student achievement in language arts and mathematics. He implemented technology that allows students to access special tutorial programs from any computer and incorporated this technology in the classroom. Under his leadership, the district achieved Annual Yearly Progress in mathematics and all the measureable subgroups for two consecutive years, for the first time in district history.

Ramon Cruz is a Clerk Typist in the Essex County Department of Citizen Services, Division of Welfare. Assigned to the Document Resource and Recovery Unit, Cruz is responsible for inputting over 250 cases a month into the system for payments through the Supplemental Work Support Program. In addition, he serves as the Fair Hearing Liaison and is responsible for scheduling Fair Hearing requests for the Division's professional staff. Cruz is also a volunteer staff member for *Essex First*, the first Essex County customer newsletter. He consistently teaches his co-workers how to streamline different unit functions and his knowledge of computers and Microsoft programs has made him a valuable asset to the Division.

Marjorie Sherman, a Supervising Legal Stenographer, began her career with the Essex County Prosecutor's Office in 1964. She is Secretary to a Chief Assistant Prosecutor, two Assistant Prosecutors and the Executive staff and serves as backup secretary for Prosecutor Dow. She is responsible for handling documents and discoveries for civil litigation cases, scheduling interviews for Assistant Prosecutor candidates, taking dictation, and drafting letters, legal documents and reports for trial Assistant Prosecutors. Marjorie has over 20 years of experience as a legal secretary and has become an asset to the assistant prosecutors because of her wealth of knowledge.

Bruce Devita, Project Coordinator with the Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, has spent over 30 years working in various aspects of the Parks Department and the carpenter shop. He is responsible for the coordination of all projects from operational policies to construction projects, from coordinating our GeesePeace Program to assuring the safety of our playgrounds as a Certified Playground Inspector. He played a pivotal role in the successful implementation of the County's first Deer Management Program. He coordinated the activities with our consultant, fed the deer, negotiated with the State, corralled the hunters and worked with the Sheriff's Officers to assure the safety of our residents.