



L TO R: Seanique Smith, Thomas Patierno, Kahira Davis,
Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., Detective Bartolomew Cohen

ESSEX COUNTY EXECUTIVE DIVINCENZO RECOGNIZES EMPLOYEES AND VO-TECH STUDENT DURING COUNTY'S JUNE TEAMWORK AWARD PROGRAM

Newark, NJ – Entering his second term, Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. changed the format of the monthly Teamwork awards to highlight the academic excellence of a Vocational-Technical School student along with the hard work and dedication of three County employees.

Kahira Davis, a senior at the Essex County Vocational School District's Technical Career Center in Newark, will attend Fairleigh Dickinson University on a full scholarship in the fall. Kahira, an honor roll student, successfully balanced a rigorous high school course load and extracurricular activities. Most notable is her involvement with the American Field Service Program (AFS), a foreign student exchange program, which afforded her the opportunity to travel to Hungary during one summer as an ambassador to promote the AFS program. She was also a member of the Health Occupations Students of America Club as well as Teens Networking Together. Kahira has overcome many obstacles during high school, including losing her mother during her sophomore year. This would have deterred many her age, however, it served as a driving force for her continued efforts to succeed.

Thomas Patierno joined the Essex County Vocational-Technical School District as a Culinary Arts Instructor in 2000. A graduate of the Academy of Culinary Arts, Tom brings a wealth of Culinary Arts knowledge to the school district, and instills a work ethic in all his students that make them strive for excellence. Multiple students from Patierno's program have received scholarships to the prestigious Johnson & Wales Culinary Institute in Rhode Island, which can be attributed to the first rate education they received at the West Caldwell Center. His students are constantly immersed in activities to perfect their skills, whether bringing food to a family in need, preparing breakfast for faculty or catering various cultural heritage celebrations for the County.

Seanique Smith began his career as a Laborer assigned to the Branch Brook Park Extension crew with the Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs in 2000, and has since been transferred to the Brookdale Park crew. His responsibilities include field preparation, grass cutting and litter patrol at Brookdale Park. Seanique is a dedicated County employee, committed to putting Essex County parks first, making Brookdale Park a pleasant environment for all to enjoy.

Detective Bartolomew Cohen began his career with the Essex County Sheriff's Office in 1987 working in the Detective Bureau. In the past he has provided dignitary protection and worked in the Transportation Division. Now assigned to the Civil Process Division, he serves civil summonses and complaints and Grand Jury summonses for the Superior Court. Cohen is also a member of the National Black Police Officers Association and a former PBA 183 Trustee. He has received numerous accolades for his exemplary work, professionalism and dedication.