

ESSEX COUNTY EXECUTIVE DIVINCENZO RECOGNIZES EMPLOYEES DURING COUNTY'S JANUARY TEAMWORK AWARD PROGRAM



L TO R: Jos Rodriguez, Craig Lombardi, Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., Mary Quitiquit and Amelo Bacchus

Newark, NJ – Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. presented the monthly Essex County Teamwork Awards for January 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 student achievement.

Amelo Bacchus is a senior at Essex County Bloomfield Tech, where she is concentrating on Graphic Arts. Bacchus, an Honor Roll student since her Freshman year, often with straight As, was inducted into the National Honor Society during her Sophomore year, the earliest a student is eligible. Though her rigorous schedule includes AP English and Calculus, she still finds time to contribute to her school community through clubs and sports. A member of the Drama and Mock Trial Clubs and Senior Committee, and as a Youth Development All-Star, she completed a summer internship at Cromocell Corp. in New Brunswick. On the athletic fields, she played JV volleyball and will captain the varsity softball team this spring. She is still exploring colleges, but appears headed toward a Biology or Related Sciences major...and perhaps her deep interest in the medical field will lead her to a profession in that area.

Craig Lombardi spent many years with the Essex County Economic Development Corporation before joining the Division of Housing and Community Development last year, where he has had an immediate positive impact. As Project Coordinator of the HOME Investment Partnership Program, he assists developers in the preparation of the HOME applications, ensuring compliance with the evolving regulations and supporting Essex County's affordable housing objectives. Craig's ability to analyze projects, crunch numbers and understand and apply complex HUD regulations is of great value to the Division and developers. He immerses himself in every project, but is also a willing member of the team, assisting where needed. As a result, he is well respected by his peers. Out of the office, this Notre Dame alum enjoys any activity that involves a ball or a puck, using this interest to coach Special Olympic athletes in basketball and other sports, which garnered him the 2011 title of ARC's Volunteer of Year. He also oversees an annual charity basketball tournament, supporting many Essex non-profit organizations.

Jose Rodriguez is the "go-to guy" for any IT problem at the Essex County Correctional Facility. A Senior Technologist for the Department of Corrections, he first came to the department in 2005 as a Dell Computer Repair technician and joined the county in June 2007. He is hardware certified and provides IT tech support for computers, servers, phones and the video court system. He can be counted on for assistance, even during the weekends and evenings when he is called upon. Born in the Dominican Republic, Jose now lives in Carteret with his wife of 12 years, Maria, and their 6 year old, Ryan. Although he is an avid fisherman, nothing can compare to Ryan, who is, he says, "The joy of my life." Jose is being recognized today for his diligence, dependability and dedication to a facility that needs to function at all times.

Mary Quitiquit joined Essex County almost 20 years ago, as a Staff Nurse at the Essex County Hospital Center. Today, she runs the Patient Clinic, a busy unit where outside specialists visit to provide services. The 20 or so weekly scheduled appointments might include visits from optometrists or podiatrists, for example. Mary, a detail-oriented person, is the right employee for the job. She is conscientious, dependable, and professional in her dealings with internal and external staff and patients. Mary also does the follow-up paperwork, and provides daily status reports for ECHC patients who are admitted to Clara Maass or Mountainside Hospitals to medical and other appropriate staff.