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

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.

Hadassa Saintil is an exceptional senior at Essex County West Caldwell Tech, where she is concentrating on Culinary Arts. Not only has she achieved academically, touting such honors as first in her class, Honor Roll throughout her high school years, Student of the Month last year, and National Honor Society member. She also participates in many extracurricular programs such as Skills USA, the ProStart Competition and Student Council, and found time to participate in a Food Drive for the homeless. Her caring personality and optimistic attitude make her a role model and will serve her well in her chosen field of Health Sciences. We are sure that she will continue to be a contributor to those around her, and congratulate her on an outstanding secondary school experience.

Domenico Tafuri joined the Department of Corrections in 1999, starting at the Essex County Jail Annex in Caldwell. He was mainly a Housing Unit Officer, first in Satellite 1, then Satellite 2 and also in the gang housing unit, where his effective work earned him a Warden’s Citation. After the move to Doremus Avenue, he was a Line Officer until 2006, when he was promoted to Sergeant. In 2012, he was promoted to Lieutenant as a CHART Commander; CHART is the unit that manages all the ICE and US Marshal operations at the Essex County Correctional Facility. His fearlessness was exhibited when he entered a cell at the Jail Annex engulfed in flames to save an inmate’s life, for which he was awarded the Class B Distinguished Service Award. We appreciate the great job you are doing for Essex County, and look forward to your future achievements.

Alvin Spraggins joined the Essex County Hospital Center staff as a Hospital Attendant in 1988 and his wife was a nurse on the 7-3 shift. Over the years, Mr. Spraggins became the “go-to guy,” when special needs patients required attention. He stands as a role model for the newer staff, as his patience and experience handling our more chronically ill, challenging residents is demonstrated every day. He is also respected enough to be a union representative for the Overlook Employees Association, CWA Local 1040, where he proudly represents his co-workers with any labor issue that arises. Alvin’s positive attitude and willingness to help others is a true demonstration of teamwork. He is always Putting Essex County First.

Apryl Caldwell, Manager of Workforce Investment Act (WIA) services, is responsible for the supervision of the youth, adult and dislocated worker services. These are the One-Stop Programs that provide employment and vocational services to individuals who are unemployed or underemployed. She joined the County nine years ago as an Employment Specialist with the Division of Training and Employment. Her strong sense of responsibility and outstanding leadership skills were quickly noted, and Ms. Caldwell steadily rose through the ranks to the position she holds today, making a strong impact on the program. Under her leadership, two one-day symposiums were held for over 200 high school Freshmen and Sophomores. Business leaders spoke to the students about career opportunities in the areas of greatest job growth, giving them a vision and a sense of possibilities for their future. The Essex event was considered one of the best in the State. She is self-motivated and has the capacity to motivate others, building a team and living it every day.