



## Always Creating Excellence (A.C.E.) Employee Awards

**D**EP is a great agency that delivers critical services that millions of New Yorkers depend on daily. Making good on that promise requires the dedication and hard work of our nearly 6,000 employees.

The A.C.E. program recognizes DEP staff members that have exhibited outstanding effort, and have gone above and beyond the call of duty to serve the people of New York City. These awards allow for each and every DEP employee to nominate colleagues for exceptional work in four categories, including *Excellence in Leadership, Customer Service, Environmental, Health & Safety, and Innovation (with distinctions in Early Career, Sustainability & Operations, Administration & Support, Technology, and Engineering)*. All DEP employees are eligible to nominate their colleagues—individuals and teams—for awards.

We're accepting fourth quarter nominations for A.C.E. awards through December 1<sup>st</sup>. Submit your nominations now, with some basic information such as the nominee's responsibilities and examples of extraordinary performance, by [clicking here](#) or mail to: 59-17 Junction Boulevard, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor, Flushing, NY 11373, ATTN: ACEAWARDS. For more information, consult the Employee Resource Center on The Source, e-mail [ACEAWARDS@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:ACEAWARDS@dep.nyc.gov) or call Herb Roth, Deputy Director of Human Resources at (718) 595-3377.

Awardees for the third quarter of 2017, featured in this Weekly Pipeline Extra edition, were honored at a breakfast on October 20 with Deputy Commissioner for Human Resources **Zoe Ann Campbell**, during which they received a certificate, a lapel pin and an A.C.E. Awards duffle bag. Some employees also won a ticket to take a DEP Employee Experience tour and will receive excused time to visit and learn about an interesting operation within DEP.

These men and women set a standard for all of us to emulate and appreciate.

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## CUSTOMER SERVICE



### Bureau of Organizational Development & Human Resources (OD&HR) - **Andrea Shivcharran**

Andrea joined OD&HR in a newly created position of internal communications and engagement specialist about two years ago. Her innovation and creativity in producing and distributing internal communications is a labor of love. Despite the incredible demands placed on her, especially by last minute requests for communications, she continues to rise to the challenge of producing agency announcements on The Source, DEPTv, flyers, posters, and blast emails. From blood drives, to training classes, to brown bags, to cultural celebrations, to EAP, to A.C.E. to webinars, to Citywide priorities, the list of information that needs to be funneled to the workforce never ends.

In addition, Andrea worked tirelessly to improve communications to the DEP's field sites. And recently, to reduce the number of oftentimes-redundant email communications, she designed and implemented the EmployeesFirst weekly communication.

Andrea has been responsible over the last two years for producing hundreds of internal communications to DEP's workforce. She is unquestionably providing value-added customer services to all DEP employees. Andrea deserves this recognition for her dedication, diligence, creativity and innovation in providing customer services to DEP's workforce day-in and day-out.



### Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations - Manhattan Repairs and Sewer Maintenance Teams

Amjad Ali	Edward Rivera	John Castiglione	Victor Cortese
Anthony Descartes	Greg Tolwinski	Julian Lira	Vishal Sidoo
Cesar Garcia-Aguilar	Henry Icaza	Marc Burgess	Wesley Skinner
Chris Pisciotti	Ivan Dilan	Narendra Narine	Jeremy Mercado
Chris Gaw	Jeffrey Venezia	Raheem Norris	Alexander Beckles
Corey Holder	Jimmy Payano	Salvatore Gallina	
Darrin Henry	John Castiglione	Tony Pellizzi	

**Response #1:** In February, Manhattan Repairs responded to a water main break on Bleecker Street. After excavating the site, the team repaired 24 feet of a 20-inch water main (with offsets) and restored water services to the local residents and visitors. In addition to their emergency response expertise, they also provided a temporary water source for a local supermarket while the repair took place. Due to the team's quick response and efforts, the Bureau saved a total of \$45,000 that would have otherwise been paid to a private contractor to repair the water main.

**Response #2:** In March, Manhattan Sewer Maintenance responded to a partial street cave-in at the corner of Canal and Church streets. The team worked through the night, allowing vehicular traffic to access one of the busiest roadways in Manhattan prior to the morning rush hour. Their efforts saved the Bureau a total of \$14,500 that would have otherwise been paid to a private contractor to repair the sewer and roadway.

The efforts of these two teams ensured that, in each situation, essential services were not impacted for an extended period. The precise coordination of construction work that took place is a testament to their dedication and commitment DEP's mission and we thank them for their efforts.

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY



### Bureau of Water Supply - Giovanni Napolitano and Jeffrey Walser

One day over the summer, two colleagues were surveying the water at Hillview Reservoir when one worker fell overboard as the boat approached the dock. Giovanni and Jeffrey acted quickly and safely rescued their colleague. Today, we thank Giovanni and Jeffrey for their heroic service.





### Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations - Lal Sarju

### Bureau of Water Supply - Glenn Corwin, Arthur Batson, and Steven Brie

Recent Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) progress reports indicate that hand injuries can occur when sledgehammers are used in combination with breaking bars to repair and replace damaged fire hydrants and gate valve nuts.

Since breaking bars with safety handles are not commercially available for purchase, this prompted the need for internal design and creation. BWSO EHS Specialist Lal Sarju, and BWS Machinists Glenn Corwin, Arthur Batson and Steve Brie welcomed the challenge.

Together, the team came up with a design proposal to manufacture in-house breaking bars with welded-on safety handles. After Lal proposed the initial design, Glen, Arthur and Steve created a prototype. The innovation, coordination and teamwork displayed by these employees in an effort to prevent future hand injuries from occurring is a tribute to their dedication to environmental health and safety.





**Bureau of Wastewater Treatment -  
Port Richmond Wastewater Treatment Plant Environmental Health and Safety Team**

Albert Verdolino  
Cosmo Controneo

John Peterford  
Robert Clarke Jr.

William Schroder Jr.

Staff at the Port Richmond Treatment Plant recently devised a unique way to map the extensive network of subsurface piping to prevent the need to remove several sections of the floor (grating) should a chemical leak occur. Plant Chief William (Bill) Schroder proposed that a color-coded piping diagram be painted onto the surface of the floor that would follow the exact pattern of the piping that was beneath the floor. John, Cosmo, Albert, and Robert quickly took charge to ensure Bill's vision would become a reality. This team's implementation of this best practice serves as a solid example of how to execute an idea into reality. The initiative, coordination and teamwork displayed by these employees is evidence of their dedication to environmental health and safety and we thank them for their hard work.



## INNOVATION, EARLY CAREER



### Bureau of Water Supply - Eastern Operations, Job Order Contracts (JOCs) Team

Brian O'Malley  
Jason Garritt

Joshua Gomez  
Meredith Mathewson

Nymbat Juramit

Reliably maintaining a sufficient supply of high quality drinking water is the primary mission of the Bureau of Water Supply. As part of that mission, the Bureau is tasked with ensuring that our water does not exceed the Surface Water Treatment Rule turbidity limit.

This summer, the Eastern Operations JOCs team reconstructed a boat ramp on Kensico Reservoir, adjacent to the Shaft 18 intake. However, when the turbidity-monitoring buoy provided by the JOCs vendor didn't operate properly, the Bureau's team from Hawthorne Field stepped in. They installed two additional monitoring buoys, and worked with Brian O'Malley to have the data available on-line so that it could be monitored remotely.

The team wrote specific programming code on short notice, assembled the necessary materials in a few hours and were reporting data by the end of the day. Data from these buoys were monitored hourly around the clock, and decisions on whether to let the contract work continue were made based on this data. These actions allowed the project to continue and be successfully completed, and ensured that water quality was not impacted at the Shaft 18 compliance monitoring point.

Thank you to the entire team for your innovation and outstanding contributions to maintaining continuous operations.



### Employee Experience Site Tour Drawing

At today's ceremony, 16 lucky employees won passes to participate in an upcoming DEP Employee Experience Site Tour. These tours are scheduled quarterly and the winners will receive one pass each, to be used within the next year.

**Albert Verdolino, John Peterford, Cosmo Cotroneo, Giovanni Napolitano, Arthur Batson, Andrea Shivcharran, Henry Icaza, Corey Holder, Toni Pellizzi, Chris Gaw, Raheem Norris, Darrin Henry, Henry Icaza, Grace Pigott, Nefertiti Griffith, and Meredith Mathewson.**

## COMMISSIONER'S AWARD



### Bureau of Organizational Development & Human Resources (OD&HR) - Internship Team

Adrian Allen	Andrea Shivcharran	Indra Seepersaud	Nefertiti Griffith
Adrienne Blanford	Briana Lomax-Day	Laleta Conyers	Vladimir Vilsaint

The Commissioner's Award is presented to the team from OD&HR for their exemplary work in organizing and coordinating DEP's Summer Internship Program and inspiring the workforce of tomorrow through youth-focused programming. More than the pipes, tunnels, and treatment plants, DEP relies on its talented and dedicated workforce of 6,000 employees to keep this vast system running. It is for this reason that DEP not only invests in the professional development of its current workforce, but also invests in strategies to build the pipeline of talent needed in the future.

In April, DEP hosted "Take Your Child to Work Day," in which 465 children learned about DEP's mission and participated in activities that centered on teamwork, collaboration, and problem solving. Over the summer, DEP's Summer Internship Program engaged 121 undergraduate and graduate students from diverse fields of study. Additionally, DEP also hosted five students from the NYC City College of Technology through a National Science Foundation grant program that allowed participants interested in working in a STEM field to gain hands-on experience. Finally, DEP participated in the Department of Youth and Community Development's Summer Youth Employment Program and Ladders for Leaders Program for the third year in a row. Twenty-seven youth were assigned to different bureaus throughout LeFrak.

The above-mentioned efforts help attract new talent to DEP, and staff are already engaged in assessing candidates and identifying opportunities for youth in two additional programs sponsored by DYCD. Implementation of these programs requires extensive teamwork and coordination across the Agency. And while this team from OD&HR is responsible for the central planning of these programs, they would not be possible were it not for the continued cooperation and partnership of all the bureau staff, who have mentored these young people through their internships, providing invaluable advice and career guidance.

On behalf of DEP and the City of New York, I want thank everyone involved in making these programs a success and I look forward to our continuing efforts to develop DEP's future workforce. Thank you all.