

Special Guest *Commissioner's Corner*



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As summer approaches, many college students look forward to finally putting their books aside, reconnecting with friends, traveling or simply taking it easy. However, for 155 dedicated young people, this summer was spent working alongside DEP professionals as part of our summer internship program.

Competition was fierce and students were very savvy about getting summer internships with DEP this year. Applications were received as early as February, with more than 1,500 resumes

being received in total. Clearly, the word was out that an internship at DEP could be instrumental in providing a student with invaluable insight into selecting a future career.

This summer's program allowed our interns to get an inside peek at the critical work DEP employees perform every day, while also affording them the opportunity to make meaningful contributions to many of our programs and projects. Interns were assigned to projects throughout DEP (at both in-city and watershed facilities) that included Wind Power Feasibility Study for in-City Wastewater Treatment Plants; At-the-Tap Lead Compliance Testing Pro-



gram; Wastewater Treatment Processes; Backflow Prevention; Stormwater Management; Water On-the-Go; Equipment Tracking Systems; East-of-Hudson Water Quality Monitoring; Economic Analysis of recreational Boating and Fishing on NYC Reservoirs; Mapping and Reconstruction of WALIS Sewer Systems; Croton Filtration Plant, and Right to Know Program. They also were assigned to the OIT Help Desk, attended administrative trials and hearings, worked with the Asbestos Taskforce, worked with Budget and Contracts and worked on EEO and OD&HR initiatives.

DEP's summer internship program is an integral part of our continuing effort to attract and retain our next generation of talented and diverse leaders, which is why we have maintained our position as one of the top water utilities in the nation. With a large percent-

age of the current workforce eligible to retire over the next 8 years, inspiring and developing talent for the future is essential.

The program's closing ceremony culminated last Wednesday with summer interns showcasing the skills and talents they brought to our critical mission of providing high quality drinking water, and protecting public health and the environment. Their energy and enthusiasm, coupled with a thirst for knowledge, was contagious and definitely served as an inspiration to all of us. I also want extend huge thanks and kudos to everyone at DEP for their involvement in this year's program, with special acknowledgement to **Grace Pigott**, the entire Organizational Development & Human Resources team, intern supervisors, and other bureau partners for once again coordinating and facilitating an exceptional program.

Spotlight on Safety

Safe + Sound: Worker Participation

This week the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is celebrating Safe + Sound Week. A core element of this event is encouraging "Worker Participation." OSHA defines this as meaningfully engaging workers at all levels in establishing, implementing, evaluating, and improving safety and health in the workplace. This week serves as a reminder that DEP encourages all workers to be engaged and committed to a safe workplace so that everyone can return home at the end of the day.

Every employee is encouraged to report conditions they feel are unsafe. There are several

ways to do this, such as the [Workplace Violence Prevention Program](#). DEP employees have the right to report incidents or concerns about workplace violence without fear of retaliation. The [Employee Concerns Program](#), which includes a Hotline and confidential email form, allows employees to report environmental, safety, and health concerns. You can always report concerns to your supervisor or Bureau Safety Officer.

For more information on how OSHA is encouraging worker participation and other ways to play a role in workplace safety, visit the [Safe + Sound Week website](#).

At DEP, everyone is responsible for safety. If you or anyone on your team is concerned about your working conditions, it's okay to ask your supervisor or your bureau's EHS liaison how they can help. If you've still got questions, you can call the EHS Employee Concerns Hotline. It's DEP's responsibility to acknowledge and fix unsafe situations, procedures, and practices. With your help, we'll not only get the job done, we'll make it safer for ourselves, our coworkers, our families, and our city. CALL (800) 897-9677 OR SEND A MESSAGE THROUGH [PIPELINE](#). HELP IS ON THE WAY.



Water-On-the-Go in the Rockaways



State Senator **Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr.**, recently met up with BPAC's **Eva Lynch** and DEP interns at a Water-On-the-Go station set up at 108th Street and Beach Channel Drive in the Rockaways. The popular fountains, easily spotted with their accompanying bright blue NYC Water tents, are providing refreshing gulps of delicious drinking water to thousands of New Yorkers heading to the beach this summer to soak up some sun. Each day, DEP delivers more than a billion gallons of water to more than 9.6 million residents, including 8.6 million in New York City.

Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 23 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Deputy Director for Human Resources **Herb Roth**, HR Specialist **Grace Franco** and HR Generalist **Conor Bulger**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Jenny M. Cruz with BCS; **Amar T. Patel** with BEC; **Bonney Bejoice**, **John Goulas**, **Nicholas L. Hanley**, **Steven M. Oliveri**, **MD Huzzatur Rahman**, **Ashkan Rowshanrad** and **April D. Weeks** with BEDC; **John M. Bazik**, **Evanda M. Caldwell**, **Spiridon Darios**, **Rupsha Ghosh**, **Mateusz Kowalski**, **Rosa M. Perez** and **Jigar G. Talati** with BWSO; **Paul A. Alamu**, **Anderson I. Mitchell** and **Darnell M. Tomlinson** with BWT; **Aye Moh Moh Kyi-Manway** and **Damion O. Scott** with CFO/OIT; **Vishon Garcia** with OD&HR; and **Pedro Medina** with Legal Affairs.

26th Ward Wins Water Challenge



Congratulations to the staff at 26th Ward, winners of the Commissioner's fourth Water Challenge to WWTP's. The goal of these challenges is for plants to reduce their water consumption by 10% from a measured baseline of typical water use. 26th Ward was able to reduce water usage from an average of 450,000 gallons per day to 300,000 gallons per day during the challenge, a savings of more than 55 million gallons per year.

26th Ward achieved this by expanding their use of effluent in the plant. Using spare pumps, staff installed 800 feet of pipe to carry effluent to other parts of the plant to put it to use in operations that normally used city water, including wash down for the thickener tanks, spray water for cleaning the dewatering belts, and seal water for the pumps in the digester area.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame



The Yankees are hosting a DEP Employees, Family, and Friends Night on September 21 for a matchup against the Baltimore Orioles. The first pitch at Yankee Stadium is at 4:05pm, and tickets are limited and will be sold on a first come, first served basis. For more information, please contact qwl_events@dep.nyc.gov or Nana Anyane-Yeboah at 646-977-8082 or nyedboa@yankees.com.

We welcome your feedback! To submit an announcement or suggestion, please email us at: newsletter@dep.nyc.gov.