

From: [Strickland Jr., Carter H.](#)
Subject: Weekly Pipeline - Extra Edition - Employees of the Month for February
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 5:09:30 PM
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Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Carter Strickland, Commissioner

WEEKLY PIPELINE EXTRA

March 27, 2013

Volume IV • Issue 168A

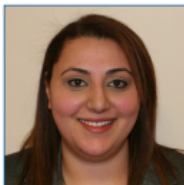


DEP Employees of the Month for February 2013

The Employee of the Month program recognizes DEP staff members that have exhibited outstanding personal effort, and have gone above and beyond the call of duty to serve the people of New York City.

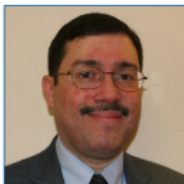
DEP is a great agency that delivers services that millions of New Yorkers depend on daily. Making good on that promise requires the dedication and hard work of the nearly 6,000 employees at DEP. To nominate someone who has demonstrated uncommon dedication and excellence, fill out the nomination form with some basic information, such as the nominee's responsibilities, examples of extraordinary performance, and ways candidates set an example for others. The form is available on Pipeline, and you'll need to submit it by the tenth day of each month. For more information, email Herb Roth at hroth@dep.nyc.gov.

The Employees of the Month for February, featured in this Weekly Pipeline Extra edition, were honored at a breakfast on March 27 with Commissioner Strickland, received a certificate, and had their names added to the Employee of the Month Board on the 3rd and 19th floors at Lefrak and at the Kingston Office. These men and women set a standard for all of us to emulate and appreciate.



Water & Sewer Operations - **Vivian Toscano**

Vivian began her career with DEP in September 2011 and currently works in the Engineering Division as an Assistant Civil Engineer. While she is a relatively new engineer she has already acquired her Professional Engineers license, which sets an excellent example for her co-workers. Vivian works in the newly formulated Green Infrastructure Group and is excelling in the review of grant proposals, is involved in the intern workshops that the Bureau has initiated as well as the Green Infrastructure events sponsored by the department. Vivian leads by example and has demonstrated that you can work hard and produce a high quality work product while still making time to enhance your skills.



Environmental Health and Safety - **Roberto Rios**

Roberto began his career with DEP in January 2010 and serves as a Computer Programmer Analyst in the Office of Environmental Health & Safety's Training Division-Systems Administration unit. With a background in computer systems and data processing, Roberto is an integral part of the Training Tracking & Reporting System (TTRS) team. TTRS is the agency-wide database system that is used to track employee training and Roberto coordinates with bureau liaisons on a regular basis to ensure the systems functionality. He is also willing to put in the extra time and effort required to complete projects in a timely manner. Roberto has a great attitude, outstanding work ethic, and works well with employees from all bureaus.



Water Supply - **George Cavallero**

George began his career at DEP in September 2006 and currently serves as a Water Ecology Scientist. He has improved sampling equipment and site conditions by working with the DEP Machinists and tradesmen to create custom solutions to field issues. More specifically, George worked with the DEP Machinists to fabricate stainless steel rub rails to mount on sampling boats. The rails prevent wear on the boats by the various lines used to haul equipment and water up from sampling depths in the reservoir. He is also actively working with the machine shop to create a safety handrail for the robotic monitoring network buoys deployed on Kensico Reservoir. In addition to giving staff added security on the floating platforms, the rails will also increase maintenance efficiency.

George is crucial to the continuous operation of the robotic monitoring buoy network on Kensico Reservoir. This network provides critical, real-time data to managers to help make operational decisions in the water supply system. During a recent powerful rain storm, one of the robotic monitoring buoys stopped communicating. George immediately dropped what he was doing, grabbed a co-worker and geared up for the field. Braving 3-foot high whitecaps, he managed to navigate to the disabled buoy on Kensico Reservoir and troubleshoot communications equipment in the driving wind and rain. His attention to detail in the harshest conditions is a testament to his work ethic and commitment to success. As a result, communication with the buoy was quickly restored and near real-time water quality information was again available to management.

George brings a vast skill set to the job and he routinely repairs field equipment or finds a replacement that is less likely to malfunction, which has helped the Bureau reduce maintenance costs. His broad background and depth of experiences have proven valuable, and as a supervisor, George's positive attitude is appreciated by all who work with him.



Wastewater Treatment - **Clifton Peters**

Clifton began his DEP career in April 2003 and currently serves as a Senior Sewage Treatment Worker in the Bureau's Collections Facilities North. His diligence and attention to detail were exemplified last month during a routine maintenance assignment at the 154th Street Pumping Station. While there, Clifton noticed that a small sinkhole had formed not far from the Pumping Station. He took the initiative to investigate further and discovered that the sinkhole had developed due to a leak in the Pumping Station's force main. Clifton's efforts and commitment to his job prevented a small issue from turning into an operations and public safety problem.



Environmental Compliance - **Manoj Oza**

Oza (Manny) began his career with DEP in October 1990. He currently serves as an Instrumentation Specialist in the Bureau's Division of Air Modeling and Technical Services and he played an important role in the Bureau's efforts to manage the vegetative debris resulting from Hurricane Sandy, which was being stored at Floyd Bennett Field.

In addition to the Army Corps of Engineers selling the tree debris to companies for beneficial reuse, a small portion of it was disposed of using Air Curtain Burner technology. To ensure the Air Curtain Burners did not degrade air quality, monitoring stations were placed in the local communities as well as around the perimeter of Floyd Bennett Field. For 16 hours a day, from December 28th through February 14, Manny was responsible for monitoring and reporting on the data from these stations. Due to his technical background and years of experience working with air monitors, Manny was able to quickly and efficiently identify problems, make recommendations to the State Department of Environmental Conservation and the US Environmental Protection Agency (who were operating the monitors) and provide solutions to issues that arose with the monitors and the data being reported from them.

He spent countless hours in the field observing the environmental conditions in and around the monitors. In addition, Manny also reported on weather conditions and other factors that could potentially affect the data being reported by the monitors. The information Manny gathered was used to make operational decisions on the use of the Air Curtain Burners, including shutting them down when environmental conditions arose that could affect air quality. His experience and knowledge helped ensure that this phase of the Sandy cleanup proceeded in a safe and efficient manner.

Commissioner's Award:



Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Liaisons

The EEO Liaisons, collectively, have dedicated many years to the EEO mission, have demonstrated an immeasurable commitment, and have gone above and beyond what is expected of them. In recent years, the EEO Office, with the assistance and support of the Liaisons, has made significant strides in developing long-term plans to improve outreach, education, and enforcement in a collaborative effort to promote awareness and change attitudes. As a result, the EEO has been successful in addressing the myriad of issues that we are faced with daily. In addition, the Liaisons have developed trust and respect from employees who are faced with challenging workplace concerns and have found satisfaction through their efforts. They assert themselves when necessary, negotiate, and mediate extremely difficult situations, and have developed into leaders and role models in the EEO arena.

The Liaisons are also involved in providing input when it comes to developing training modules and instrumental in disseminating policies, practices, and procedures which have resulted in improved communication and efficiency. Liaisons also provide a valuable service in terms of investigations. They respond to complaints quickly and objectively and collect supporting documentation which helps lead to successful resolution of open cases.

This is a group of professionals who care about the DEP family and will do what they can to ensure that our workplace is free from discrimination, harassment, and unfair treatment. Some have previously, and others continue to, serve as members of the Diversity Committee, have mentored summer interns, and were instrumental in the introduction of three lactation rooms. With their assistance and commitment, the EEO Office is able to address concerns in a timely and productive manner.

DEP's EEO Liaisons:

Alejandra Lamarche (WT), Andre Reid (WT), Anthony Evangelista (CT), Cavita Lewis (EEO), Christina Allen (EDC), Donna Hylton (OIT), Gayna Samuel (EPA/EC/OGI), Grace White (CIA), Henry Baranczak (EH&S), Janet Singh (EAO), Jason Low (WB), Jessica Rodriguez (PS), Joseph Colby (PS), Judith Marshall (CS), Michael Walczyszyn (EEO), Rosanna Pullara (ACCO), Susan McCormack (WS), Tamara Brice (WSO), Tanika Thomas (EEO), William Beers (PS) and Yocanda Baez (WSO).