



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

DEP 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 second quarter nominations for A.C.E. awards thru June 1st. 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, 18th Floor, Flushing, NY 11373, ATTN: ACEAWARDS. For more information, consult the Employee Resource Center on The Source, e-mail ACEAWARDS@dep.nyc.gov or call Herb Roth, Deputy Director of Human Resources, at (718) 595-3377, Andrea Shivcharan, OD&HR Communications Projects Specialist, at (718) 595-4091, or Renee Alfieri, Director of Employee Engagement and Wellness Programs, at (718) 595-5827.

Awardees for the first quarter of 2018, featured in this Weekly Pipeline Extra edition, were honored at a breakfast on April 27 with Commissioner **Vincent Sapienza, P.E.**, 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.

INNOVATION IN ADMINISTRATION & SUPPORT



Water Supply (BWS) - James Caggiano

DEP is committed to exposing those in the educational system to the exciting careers available within DEP. We are incredibly fortunate to have employees who are so passionate about DEP and our mission that they volunteer to promote the significance of our work to young people throughout the City and upstate. This award recognizes James Caggiano, who for nearly 15 years has facilitated DEP's engagement in the annual Lower Hudson Valley Engineering EXPO.

Jim plays a significant role in the planning and implementation of the entire EXPO each year. This showcase annually attracts more than 3,000 middle and high school students and their parents from all around the region. Jim's passion is so contagious that he easily attracts volunteers from DEP to participate in the full-day EXPO where DEP offers exhibits and displays to stimulate the excitement of the students.

Jim's efforts allow for:

- DEP exposure to thousands of students as a future "employer of choice;"
- Engagement of DEP's engineering staff—many young professionals—in meaningful activities where they get to showcase their talent and knowledge; and
- An opportunity to connect with other EXPO presenters to create new partnerships for the future (representatives from colleges and universities are all present).

Thank you Jim for your innovation and for providing young people with opportunities to be inspired to pursue careers in engineering at DEP.

INNOVATION IN SUSTAINABILITY & OPERATIONS



Water Supply (BWS) - Catskill-Delaware Ultraviolet Disinfection Facility Team

Christopher DePalma
Gary Esposito
Daniel Jacobson

Alexander Margolis
Richard Ventura
Peter Satriale

Phillip Yannella

DEP's Catskill/Delaware Ultraviolet (CAT DEL UV) Disinfection Facility—the largest of its kind in the world—consists of 56 40-million-gallon-per day UV disinfection units and is designed to disinfect a maximum of 2.4 billion gallons of water per day! The plant uses light from 11,700 ultraviolet bulbs to neutralize certain waterborne pathogens.

Within the plant are 960 batteries that make up a 480-volt system that can power the ultraviolet lights in case the generators do not kick on right away if the electricity goes off. They also help smooth out moment-to-moment variations in the electric service coming in from the grid.

Richard, Christopher, Gary, Daniel, Alexander, Peter, and Phillip recently welcomed the challenge of changing the mini-fridge-sized batteries, each weighing approximately 500 pounds, without disrupting operations.

The team came up with a safe work plan—which included conducting the necessary safety toolbox talks, operating A-frame gantry hoists, and inspecting device-lifting straps, wire ropes and hooks—that was approved by our Environmental, Health & Safety team. The initiative, coordination, and teamwork displayed by these individuals saved the city approximately \$100,000!

Our sincerest thanks to the team for showcasing their talents and commitment to our work.



Wastewater Treatment (BWT) - **Newtown Creek Wastewater Maintenance Team**

Donald Esannason
Thomas Gwilym
Darrin Hrinya

Clarence Semple
Martin Jagsaran
Jason McDermott

Govin Sanassi
Ravi Rudall

Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant members are responsible for operating the largest of New York City's 14 wastewater treatment facilities in Brooklyn's Greenpoint neighborhood—situated on 53 acres and serving more than 1 million people in parts of Brooklyn, Queens, and Manhattan. On average, the facility treats about 18 percent of New York City's wastewater, or 310 million gallons, each day. And, when it rains, the capacity more than doubles, to about 700 million gallons.

One day this past September, after installing a 250-horse power motor on a return activation sludge pump that allows aeration tanks to continue the process of treating incoming wastewater, staff were unable to reopen a valve to bring the plant back into operation at full capacity.

Deputy Chief Thomas Gwilym, Stationary Engineer Electric Clarence Semple, and Senior Sewage Treatment Worker Darrin Hrinya used their department training and years of industrial expertise to devise a safety plan that included the safe use of fall protection, confined space and hot work torch operations. They and their team members then proceeded to use a variety of tools and techniques to heat the exterior of the 30-inch valve, which eventually reopened.

The initiative, teamwork, and dedication displayed by this team prevented the hiring of emergency contractors, which could have taken the plant out of service for weeks, or even months, with estimated repair costs upward of \$1 million.

Today we honor this team for their resilience, determination, outstanding performance, and service under extremely stressful conditions to sustain operations.

ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH AND SAFETY



Water Supply (BWS) - Louis Occhiuto

When Louis's supervisor went out on leave, he took on his role at the Croton Filtration Plant and Jerome Park Reservoir, in addition to his assigned responsibilities at Hillview Reservoir and Reservoir Headquarters.

Louis made the extra effort to familiarize himself with Environmental, Health and Safety compliance policies and procedures that needed to be adhered to at each facility. Under Louis's leadership, Croton Filtration Plant and Jerome Park Reservoir have not received any EHS Notice of Violations.

Thank you Louis for your outstanding commitment to Environmental, Health and Safety.



Police and Security (BPS) - Division of Emergency Response and Technical Assessment Team

Afrosa Amin
Donald Eng

Victor Gresseau
Hsin-I Ho

Harry Mayer

The Division of Emergency Response and Technical Assessment (DERTA) responds to many types of hazardous material emergencies. At the end of October, DERTA and the NYPD Emergency Service Unit responded to a building where pesticide had been improperly applied.

Using supplied air and wearing chemical resistant suits, the DERTA Team entered the apartment, assessed the situation and issued a Commissioner's Order to the building owner to vacate the apartment and retain the services of a licensed HazMat contractor to perform the cleanup. The building owner complied with the vacate order, but defaulted in obtaining a HazMat contractor to perform the cleanup.

As a result, the DERTA Team immediately assumed full control of the site. The DERTA Team posted security guards on a 24/7 basis to prevent anyone from returning to the building during cleanup operations. Upon the successful completion of the cleanup, building residents were notified that it was safe to return home.

The swift actions by these responders in identifying, confining, and taking proper measures averted a potential disaster. Today we honor the DERTA Team for their professionalism, and outstanding performance and service under extremely stressful conditions.



Wastewater Treatment (BWT) - Roger Young

Roger joined the Red Hook Wastewater Treatment Plant as Stationary Electrical Engineer (SEE) in 2015. As an SEE, he is responsible for implementing procedures to control hazardous energy during equipment repairs and maintenance. This is better known as the LOTO (Lockout/Tagout) program.

BWT has plenty of equipment in inventory for treating wastewater—all of which require highly trained staff to safely and efficiently operate and maintain. In order to promote safety and prevent serious injuries from occurring, Roger put into action a very complex LOTO program at the Red Hook WWTP. During a recent Office of Environmental, Health and Safety (OEHS) audit, Roger accompanied the auditors in performing visual verifications of safety conditions, and provided clear explanations on safety operations and equipment functioning.

Roger earned this recognition today for his diligent work in implementing the complex requirements of the BWT Red Hook's WWTP LOTO program, and for being highly engaged and supportive of the overall EHS program.

Thank you Roger for putting safety first!

CUSTOMER SERVICE



Customer Service (BCS) - Newsletter Team

Maureen Brown
Balign Johnson
Puja Kutwal

Kim Ohanian
Michael Roach
Shea Roper

Patricia Strickland

Today we have the privilege of recognizing the Bureau of Customer Services (BCS) Newsletter Team, led by Shea Roper, for demonstrating excellence in customer services. Through the creative efforts of a seven-member team, approximately 500 DEP employees in BCS receive a newsletter communication about service-related topics and outstanding customer service.

This award commends the recipients for communicating best practices and taking a leadership position to share and inspire performance at the highest level of customer service.

They are credited for communicating positive change within the Bureau by:

- Demonstrating good customer service practice;
- Recognizing the employees promoting it;
- Encouraging new staff in their quest for growth and self-improvement; and
- Reinforcing what is expected of staff across all seven service-delivery units

On behalf of DEP, thank you.



Environmental, Health and Safety (OEHS) - **Safety Day Team**

Carice Craffey
Kimberly Cusumano

Kevin Goyette
Noeliz Lee

Chandan Saha
Sandra Thompson-Reid

This group, under the leadership of Carice Craffey, exhibited the gold standard of collaboration in the brainstorming, planning and execution of DEP's first "Safety Day"—which was attended by over 420 DEP employees at Lefrak on Oct. 26 and in Valhalla on Nov. 1.

Through their outreach efforts, they were able to offer a full spectrum of educational events as well as fun (i.e. the escape room challenge and a movie.) They coordinated a plethora of Environmental, Health and Safety-related exhibits and interactive opportunities. They also provided two speakers from the Occupational Safety & Health Administration.

Safety Day was very well-received by employees and generated excitement, and energy, about workplace safety. Thank you to the team for a job well done!



Employee Experience Site Tour Drawing

At today's ceremony, 21 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.

Noeliz Lee, Donald Esannason, Salvatore Gallina, Peter Satriale, John Castiglione, Sham Hemraj, Alexander Margolis, Kim Ohanian, Jason McDermott, Darrin Hrinya, Afrosa Amin, Maximo Rodriguez, Clarence Semple, Donald Eng, Michael Roach, Persis D. Luke, Steven Cubero, Zainool Ali, Terrance Murphy, Carol Brooks, and Vassilios Zoumboulis.

COMMISSIONER’S AWARD



Water and Sewer Operations (BWSO) Field Operations Team

Anthony Amabile	Thomas Delaney	Sham Hemraj	Joseph Sedita
John Castiglione	Salvatore Gallina	Maximo Rodriguez	Vishaal Sidoo

Recently, eight DEP BWSO Field Operations Team members were tasked with replacing a water main on Banker Street, between Wythe Street and North 15th Street, in Brooklyn, to ensure water services were restored to the public in a timely manner.

The complex and challenging work included replacing an existing 8-inch water main with a new ductile iron water main; installing two new main line gate valves; removing existing fire hydrants and replacing them with new ones, and transferring existing service connections. The replacement was completed in a highly organized and efficient manner with the bulk of the work (approximately 320 feet of water main) installed in two and a half days.

What elevates this accomplishment to the Commissioner’s Award is that normally this more extensive and complex work would have been outsourced to a design firm and private contractor. The chosen in-house work team included both seasoned employees and new apprentices drawn from various sections of our operations. This was intentionally done to break through the silo approach normally used to get work done and to have experienced employees not only lead the work but to also provide apprentices with a new opportunity for growth and development.

This team mobilized and commenced work on very short notice by using material and support from all five boroughs and the storehouse, and having engineers from the Bureau’s Distribution Section prepare the plan of work.

As a result of the good work performed, customers were happy to have services quickly restored, team members were proud of their accomplishment, apprentices learned new skills, and the in-house effort cost approximately \$50,000 less than if the job had been given to an outside design firm and a private contractor.

In summary, breaking the mold of routine business processes and stretching the Agency’s talent in different ways to successfully meet our customers’ needs is worthy of the Commissioner’s Award, and recognition across DEP. This team of employees serves as an example and inspiration for Field Operations Staff, and prove that in-house employees can excel on difficult projects. Join me in thanking them for their efforts.