



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 third quarter nominations for A.C.E. awards thru September 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 Shivcharran, 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 second quarter of 2018, featured in this Weekly Pipeline Extra edition, were honored at a breakfast on August 3 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.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY



Environmental Health & Safety (OEHS) - **Eugenia J. Leonidou**

Eugenia's exceptional contribution towards the development and implementation of the Audit and Incident Information Management Systems (AIIMS) deserves recognition.

She went above-and-beyond her regular job responsibilities to develop, from scratch-to-finish, a User Guide for a new agency-wide system used for reporting, tracking, managing and investigating all occurrences of incidents, near misses, and hazard identifications. In addition, she also developed a Trainer's Manual that has equipped Bureau Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) trainers with the information needed to conduct hands-on computer training sessions for using the new agency-wide EHS database.

In order to achieve these challenging goals, Eugenia first had to take on the task of understanding how the various functions of the new database worked, as well as understand the technical content of the new Incident Management Policy, which served as a guidance document for developing the new system. She collaborated with various work units at the Agency Office of EHS (OEHS) and EHS staff across bureaus in order to develop the User Guide and Trainer's Manual.

Many users have complimented Eugenia for the quality and simplicity of both the User Guide and Trainer's Manual, and for its professional look, organized layout, and user-friendliness. Her tireless efforts and dedication to detail, coupled with her drive for excellence, have been noted by her peers, supervisors, and managers alike. As an example, in a recent survey conducted by OEHS, 90% of system users indicated that they found the User Manual to be a very useful tool. Eugenia, thank you for your contributions and excellence in EHS.



Water & Sewer Operations (BWSO) - Anna Theodoropoulos

Anna, an Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) Officer at the Bureau of Water & Sewer Operations (BWSO), recently oversaw the successful removal of 101 used hypodermic needles from two DEP owned properties in one day. She organized every aspect of the collection process and made sure that it was done safely and according to Agency EHS protocols. Her efforts ensured that the public and DEP workers would not be harmed by the used needles.

Anna worked with BWSO Staten Island (SI) Bluebelt staff, Supervisor Joseph Scarlotta, and Watershed Maintainer Buddy Colangelo to locate and mark (specifically, spray paint) all of the needle locations. She then procured a hypodermic needle pick-up kit, and was able to safely remove all of the hypodermic needles.

Anna is a very conscientious and knowledgeable EHS Officer. Her reputation for being very organized and following up on each and every request for assistance is well-known. She is well-respected by her fellow colleagues, and is a highly reliable team player in every project that she is involved with.

Her hard work, organization and attention to detail in seeing that all of the used hypodermic needles were safely disposed of exemplifies a job well done. Anna deserves this recognition for displaying excellence in EHS.

INNOVATION



Water & Sewer Operations (BWSO) - Pumping Station Force Main Break

On Feb. 3, while performing routine maintenance at the Hollers Avenue Pumping Station, Collection Facility North (CFN) personnel observed a dry weather bypass into the Hutchinson River. The crew shut down the pump station immediately, which terminated the discharge, and mobilized the section's vector truck to the site. With the pump station shut down, the crew was able to vector the sewage from the wet well of the station and transport it to nearby Connor Street Pumping Station until repairs were completed.

The Bureau of Water & Sewer Operations (BWSO) brought their vector truck to the site to assist CFN in transporting the wastewater, and crews managed 100% of the flow utilizing this method.

Lefrak personnel located drawings of the 8" diameter force main, and the contractor brought a barge and divers to the site to make repairs under the riverbed. The pumping station was returned to full operation on Feb. 7.

The quick and professional response by Bureau of Wastewater Treatment and BWSO crews with engineering support solved an unfortunate problem in record time. The fact that the crews were able to divert all the flow via vector truck is a great example of going above-and-beyond to protect public health and water quality.



Information Technology (OIT) - **Ian Alexander**

Ian joined DEP in early 1993. He began his career working for the Bureau of Human Resources, before transferring to the Office of Management Information Systems (MIS)—now known as the Office of Information Technology (OIT).

Ian is a rare example of a worker who blends their outside interests with their work assignments to produce an even better work product. For those of you who know Ian, his interests include videography. His background in this field extends 12+ years and includes pre-production involving writing, location scouting, and scheduling shoots. On the production side, he has arranged scenes with lighting, directed audio recording, and arranged multi-camera shoots for live music events, interviews, and streaming. He has also co-produced 13 episodes of a show on House Music called IndaSoul, which aired on public access “Manhattan Public Network” from 2012–2015.

At DEP, as an Information Technology (IT) Project Manager, Ian is involved in the delivery of some of the Agency’s key initiatives, including the three-year-long cafeteria revitalization project at Lefrak Headquarters that includes new and innovative workspaces. The new spaces include an Employee Services Center, Employee Lounge, Emergency Command Center, Video Production Studio, training rooms, and modern event spaces.

The newer and larger multi-purpose spaces now allow the Bureau of Organizational Development & Human Resources to better serve employees with easily accessible and modern workspaces including rooms that are equipped with features such as sensors that when triggered, will convert collapsible meeting rooms back to their preset configurations.

Over the course of the renovations, Ian was able to incorporate his knowledge of video and sound production to assist with the design and construction of our first recording studio. The new space also leverages components such as Skype for Business, Click Share, electronic room schedulers, multipurpose smart boards, voice conferencing, live video broadcasting and editing, and digital signage.

Ian’s IT and video production knowledge contributed greatly towards the successful mixing of IT services. Ian deserves this recognition for his dedication, diligence, creativity, and for demonstrating a perfect example of how technology can be leveraged.



Water Supply (BWS) - **Christopher Ploutz, Kenneth Taylor**

In 1997, Chris Ploutz and Ken Taylor’s job responsibilities as Watershed Maintainers were to operate and maintain water treatment equipment and building grounds at the Pine Hill Wastewater Treatment facility. Today, Chris is the Assistant Chief Operator of the Pine Hill Facility, and Ken is the Assistant Chief Operator of the Grand Gorge Wastewater Treatment Facility.

As part of the Filtration Avoidance Program (FAP), which aims to safeguard NYC’s irreplaceable Catskill/Delaware water supply (which provides water for over nine million New Yorkers), the Pine Hill Wastewater Treatment Plant (originally constructed in the early 1930’s) needed to be updated to meet the stringent discharge limits imposed on wastewater facilities in the watershed.

This team employed an equipment-based system that allowed for tracking performance, maintenance and work orders. They strived to develop a system that was easy to work with, addressed staff concerns, and minimized labor requirements— all while ensuring preventative and corrective maintenance was timely and complete. After implementation, their maintenance program was recognized as a success and was used at two additional facilities to streamline their operations.

This endeavor is now 20 years old. Chris and Ken have committed themselves to this project all these years. This is a perfect example of how teamwork, innovation, efficiency, knowledge sharing, and continuous improvement is ensuring the sustainability of the wastewater treatment processes in the “Catskill” watershed. Thank you!



Water & Sewer Operations (BWSO) - **Abir A. Momen**

Abir began his career at DEP's Bureau of Water & Sewer Operations as an Environmental Engineering Intern. Today, he is an Assistant Environmental Engineer responsible for drafting capital project initiations, reviewing contract documents generated by the Department of Design and Construction, and most importantly of all—tracking and managing a series of capital projects within the Southeast Queens (SEQ) Program.

The SEQ Program is dedicated to managing stormwater and reducing local roadway flooding in neighborhoods throughout Southeast Queens. While identifying major flood zones may seem straightforward in theory—in order to resolve flooding in NYC, one must first understand where our most prominent flooding areas exist. As one can imagine, proactively seeking clarification on flooding areas by utilizing creative and ground-breaking approaches is a tall task to accomplish.

Abir gladly welcomed the challenge and did so in a way that prevented the need to perform wet weather inspections throughout the 22 square miles of Southeast Queens. Abir successfully identified locations where flooding appeared likely by using information such as the locations of existing infrastructure and historical streams, approximate groundwater elevations, and digital elevation model data.

Much of his investigation involved painstakingly plotting and re-plotting elevation data to determine isolated low spots, and shifting the display scale repeatedly to emphasize minor elevation differences that can be responsible for localized flooding.

Abir's findings were used to determine where field inspections were needed during, and immediately after, rain events. The entire SEQ Program team benefited from Abir's work by performing field inspections throughout the areas that were mapped by Abir.

The inspections are approximately 80% complete to date, and approximately 25 additional flooding locations have been identified that will be evaluated for inclusion in the SEQ Program. Abir's innovative approach for identifying flooding locations has progressively helped the SEQ Program achieve goals to resolve flooding and improve the quality of life for residents of Southeast Queens. On behalf of DEP, and the residents of Southeast Queens, thank you for a job well done.

LEADERSHIP



Water Supply (BWS) - **Julio DeJesus**

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.

To keep the City's critical water treatment processes flowing daily, residents and visitors of NYC rely on key individuals like Julio DeJesus. Julio was recently promoted to be a Level 3 Supervisor and spearheads the Operations Team, overseeing six Level 1 Supervisors, and 10 Watershed Maintainers.

His priority is to ensure operational procedures are followed to provide drinking water that not meets and exceeds Department of Health (DOH) requirements. He works on-call with his team 24/7 to address operational emergencies, troubleshoots treatment processes and equipment issues, coordinates with trades when equipment needs servicing, makes staffing decisions, and leads training initiatives.

While Julio has excelled in all technical aspects of his job, his leadership style is what makes him stand out from the crowd. Julio is a leader who is open to listening to the concerns of his staff before making decisions and always seeks to ensure best for his team.

Recently, Julio made efforts to plan and execute social events like the BWS' first softball event to encourage employee participation and teambuilding. The event brought together four different directorates within the Bureau for a fun day of networking and teambuilding.

Julio has also volunteered to spearhead continuous hands-on training for our Emergency Response Team—a core group of volunteer staff who actively prepare for potential emergency chlorine releases at the CAT DEL UV facility.

Julio's leadership style keeps the group engaged and committed. He is well-respected by his staff and others he works with on a daily basis, and I personally enjoy working with him! Today we honor Julio for his exceptional leadership abilities, which have contributed towards enhancing fellowship among the CAT-DEL UV Plant Team.

CUSTOMER SERVICE



Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Scale Model Team

Pierre Khoobyar

Ciro Font

Robert Cuevas

Some of you may have seen DEP's architectural scale model of the Bureau of Wastewater Treatment's Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)—a miniaturized replica of the actual facility located in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. Scale models like this allow the viewer to understand how the treatment plant is organized and what processes exist, in ways that are not obvious from street-level.

The scale model displays the intricate details of the actual Plant—the largest of New York City's 14 wastewater treatment facilities, 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% 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.

It is believed that the initial scale model was created by a project team tasked with upgrading the Plant in 2007. Recently, in an effort to enhance the elaborate details of the scale model, BEDC's Pierre Khoobyar, with support from his co-worker *Ciro Font*, and supervisor, *Robert Cuevas*, presented a bold vision to the Bureaus of Public Affairs and Communications and Wastewater Treatment.

The enhanced model was to include refined colors to replicate the tones and patterns of the actual plant, labels to identify different parts of the plant and neighborhood, new features to highlight the surrounding water bodies, photographs, in small-scale, to illustrate the wastewater treatment processes, among other improvements.

Upon approval, Pierre worked for several months to enhance the model based on his multiple visits to, and observations of, the Newtown Creek WWTP, using photographs and architectural drawings as reference guides. *Ciro* worked with Pierre on several aspects of the model, including the design and construction of miniature replicas of DEP vessels and a sludge boat. *Robert* supported Pierre throughout the entire process, including the purchase of much needed art supplies and tools.

Today, we thank Pierre, with essential support from *Ciro* and *Robert*, for masterfully creating a work of art that will serve as an important teaching tool for the thousands of students and adults—from educators to professional engineers—who come to learn at the Visitor Center at Newtown Creek for years to come.



Water Supply (BWS) - Facility Modernization Team

Paula M. Miritello

Arefeh (Roya) Riazi

David G. Stretch

Joseph Borchetta

Thomas P. Magliochetti

Tamara Brennan

Godwin Lowe

Salvatore Siciliano

Stanley J. Geanuracos

The Bureau of Water Supply Facilities Management team is responsible for managing a myriad of operations support functions for the Bureau. In fact, one of their principal functions is to manage 465 Columbus Avenue.

Since 2014, the Facilities Management team has worked with the Kensico Field Team that has been involved with modernizing the office spaces. The work included:

- Coordinating painting and installation of carpeting for three floors;
- Cleaning out storage rooms;
- Converting a storage closet into a kitchenette;
- Converting old lab space into new work space for repairing and programming computers;
- Converting various rooms into centralized record storage rooms;
- Creating a tracking system for records; and
- Coordinating and working with the Office of Information Technology.

The Kensico Field Team played a crucial role in providing the labor that was needed to successfully execute the planned projects proposed by the Facilities Management Team. These team members have earned the Excellence in Customer Service Award.



The Career Fair Team

Johnny Chu

Julie R. Besson

Ikenna A. Nwaghanata

Darlene Rosario

Naomi M. Hamer

Tamara Williamson

Diana Ricaurte

Frank Malandro

Bridget Kundmueller

Kenya R. Lewis

Farrah Ahmad

Josephine Guzman-Delerme

Loncey Conyers

Herb Roth

Grace Pigott

Aimee L. Edwards

Alexandria M. Gibson

Tasha Gonzalez

Elyse S. Green

Sharon Urena

This prestigious team is being recognized for their professional service and support in delivering two engineering recruitment fairs which resulted in the successful hiring of 47 talented college students and graduates to fill mission-critical engineering vacancies.

Johnny Chu and Julie Besson, who worked collaboratively with their partners in other Bureaus, developed the project plan. Once the proposal was accepted by the Deputy Commissioner of Organizational Development and Human Resources, the entire team went into action. Meetings were held, job descriptions were written, venues and dates were identified, and the marketing and outreach to the Universities began.

Thanks to the unwavering support of Loncey and Josie, the team was able to convince the Office of Management and Budget to approve 90 engineering positions so that we could extend offers of employment on the spot to the students and graduates at the recruitment fairs.

After months of planning and preparation, our original date at City College had to be rescheduled due to an impending nor'easter. Thanks to the hard work of the team, we were able to come up with two alternate dates for the fairs. The first fair was held at Cooper Union and the second one was held at the original venue of choice, City College. Despite challenges, the team provided two recruitment fairs that supported the Agency's mission and vision, not only for today but for the future as well.

The team's collaboration, creativity, detail to scope, implementation of the plan and execution of the events showed students and candidates that DEP is a best in class New York City agency, and why we should be their employer of choice. Today we honor this special group with the ACE award



Facilities Management and Construction & Police and Security (BWS) - Transfer Switch Team

Kenneth Carchietta	Steven Kirsch	Josue R. Sanchez
Scott Drangel	Joseph S. Lubrano	Joseph Schiano
Jason P. Faivus	Carlos Rivera	Diego Vitale

Facility Management & Construction’s (FMC) electrical tradesmen and two project managers were tasked with the removal and installation of a transfer switch at DEP Lefrak Headquarters, which was located in the Mechanical Room on the 6th Floor. The replacement of the switch would ensure that the generator continued to supply power to the 6th Floor Laboratories in the event of an emergency.

This type of work could have been outsourced to a private electrical contractor, but due to the knowledge, experience, dedication and commitment of this team, we were able to save money. The cost of the switch was \$23,000 whereas an outside private electrical contractor would have charged approximately \$80,000 to perform the installation and repairs. We are honoring this the team for their accomplishments in keeping laboratory operations up and running at all times.



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.

Abdulai Fofanah, Adrene Johnson-Dyer, Aimee Edwards, Anna Theodoropoulos, Anthony Hannan, Anthony Maracic, Antonia Pereira, Brian Valdez, Christopher Maggiulli, Christopher Ploutz, Daniel Pastore, Denish Prashaud, Derek Tai, Diego Vitale, Eugenia Leonidou, Farrah Ahmad, Francis Rooney, Herb Roth, Jeffrey Schneider, Jevon Griffin, Joseph Lubrano, Joseph Schiano, Josephine Guzman-Delorme, Kenneth Taylor, Kenya Lewis, Kristin Ricigliano, Leslie Lipton, Manuel Quintela, Margaret O’Connor, Naomi Hamer, Paula Miritello, Peter Lynch, Pierre Khoobyar, Quinn Smith, Rafeek Rahaman, Roya Riazi, Sara Lupson, Shawn Napier, Stanley Geanuracos, Steven Kirsch, Tamara Williamson, Tasha Gonzalez, Thomas Magliochetti, Vincent Manich, Yevgeniy Kuksa, Zazuan Soloman, James Rossi, Victor Nyarko, Larry Arnold, and Crystal Ronci.

COMMISSIONER'S AWARD



Stormwater Management Plan Team

Mikelle C. Adgate

Leslie Lipton

Floren C. Poliseo

Shameka S. Dorestant

Sara B. Lupson

Manuel J. Quintela

Abdulai Fofanah

Margaret L. O'Connor

Kristin A. Ricigliano

Lauren R. Hamid-Shapiro

Antonia F. Pereira

Melinda Sherer

I am pleased to present this quarter's Commissioner's Award to a team that truly embodies DEP's core values, and that is our Stormwater Management Plan team. As the largest combined water and wastewater utility in the United States, DEP is not only responsible for supplying one billion gallons of clean drinking water and treating 1.3 billion gallons of wastewater every day, but is also responsible for managing the stormwater that pours onto our City's streets.

Because 71% of NYC's surfaces are impervious, stormwater flows through the streets, sweeping pollutants such as oils, chemicals, pathogens and sediments into our City's waterways. The Stormwater Management Team has worked together to develop the City's Stormwater Management Program Plan, a comprehensive response to the state Department of Environmental Conservation's MS4 permit. The MS4 permit is the first comprehensive NY State permit the City has had for its storm sewer system. It allows the city to discharge stormwater to New York waterways from the municipal separate storm sewer system.

DEP, through this group of employees, led the City's efforts to coordinate the citywide permit responsibilities, including developing citywide policies and procedures, and working with 13 other City agencies to create the compliance program.

This dynamic team embodies several aspects of DEP's mission and core values:

Leadership: This team took great care to consider all possible options and the associated impacts to other agencies.

Customer Service: This team addressed a high volume of questions and concerns from City agencies, environmental stakeholders, community members, and the private sector.

Environmental Health & Safety: Every aspect of the MS4 program touches health and safety. The Stormwater Management Program itself aims to reduce pollution entering NY Harbor from the City's storm sewers.

Transparency: This group successfully spearheaded an extensive public engagement process that featured involvement, collaboration, and transparency throughout 3 years of plan development that has received praise from DEP's agency partners and some of DEP's most vocal stakeholder organizations.

These individuals have been representatives of DEP's collaborative spirit by working across multiple bureaus, with other City agencies, and with community, environmental, and professional stakeholder groups. Together, they created a plan comprised of multiple programs that will have an important positive impact on NYC harbor water quality and the health and safety of our surrounding environment and communities through pollution source reductions.