



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 5,800 employees.

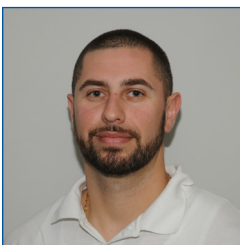
The A.C.E. program recognizes DEP staff members that have exhibited outstanding effort, and have gone above and beyond the call of duty to serve the people of New York City. These awards allow for each and every DEP employee to nominate colleagues for exceptional work in four categories, including *Excellence 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 2nd 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.

Awardees for the first quarter of 2017, featured in this Weekly Pipeline Extra edition, were honored at a breakfast on April 28 with Acting 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.

CUSTOMER SERVICE



Fleet Services - Sean Umland

Many customer service representatives would cringe when someone makes a last minute request for service. However, requests for a fleet vehicle are oftentimes last minute due to suddenly changing work situations and schedules. Sean consistently extends himself to provide service on very short notice.

One recent late afternoon, Deputy Commissioner Diana Jones Ritter wanted to show her appreciation to a small group of field staff who were out working in extraordinarily bad weather conditions. Sean juggled and managed a depleted fleet inventory to provide a vehicle for this purpose. Although Sean may not have realized it, his extra effort allowed Deputy Commissioner Ritter to demonstrate DEP's value of "support" in an unrehearsed and unplanned way. Another example of Sean going above and beyond is when Deputy Commissioner Ritter's vehicle got a flat tire and Sean loaned her his vehicle so she could still attend an important event.

Sean is also exceptionally talented at troubleshooting vehicle issues, including lockouts, warning lights, and blaring horns that won't turn off. Sean displays a "can do," "will do" attitude that exemplifies the type of customer service that Fleet Director Rebecca Behle and the entire Fleet crew can take pride in.

Thank you Sean for your superior, effective and supportive customer service.



Bureau of Water Supply - **Robert Howe**

Robert has been with DEP for over 30 years and his commitment and quality of work are witnessed daily, whether he is ensuring water quality samples are logged in quickly and efficiently at the Kingston Laboratory, overseeing the Aqueduct Monitoring Program, or supervising a team of four Water Quality Scientists.

One night back in December, Robert was contacted afterhours about an issue with a continuous water quality monitoring system that required unscheduled sampling. He proceeded to arrange for sampling throughout the night with the Water Supply Control Center in Grahamsville. He personally travelled to the site, collected samples, monitored the results into the early morning, and then entered the data into various databases. The water quality monitoring data that Robert collected was necessary to maintain compliance with the Shandaken Tunnel State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit.

Thanks Robert for a job well done under great stress. Your commitment, excellence and outstanding level of customer service is an example for others to follow.

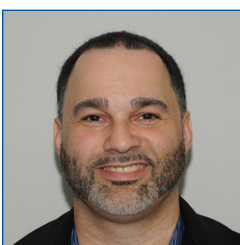


Bureau of Water & Sewer Operations: **Wayne Francis, Michael Musto, and Junior Samuel**

On Christmas Eve, a Shaft Maintenance team consisting of Wayne Francis, plumber, former employee Michael Musto, plumber's helper, and Junior Samuel, machinist, responded to an emergency call to restore water services to St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Manhattan. A crew working on a nearby water main break had damaged a water line servicing the church. In a coordinated effort, the team quickly repaired 10 feet of 2-inch copper water line pipe. The trio successfully restored water services, ensuring that churchgoers would be able to attend Christmas Day services as scheduled the next day.

Today, we thank the team for responding, without hesitation, to an emergency call that took them away from their own families and holiday celebrations. Their dedication and timely response serve as a testament to the sacrifice DEP employees make on regular basis.

LEADERSHIP



Bureau of Wastewater Treatment - **Jason Serano**

Jason is a supervisor of stock workers, responsible for handling incoming deliveries of supplies and inventory distribution for the Bureau's Marine Division, which has a fleet of five (5) sludge boats and several smaller vessels.

On a daily basis, Jason cheerfully and efficiently fills arriving orders—ranging from basic cleaning materials to critical propulsion items. Recently, Jason overcame the challenge of finding room for 12 shipping containers of essential parts in the Division's current warehouse space. Aside from accommodating the additional items, he also logged the inventory into the tracking system in a seamless manner. As a result, crucial items can be easily located and effectively distributed.

Today we have the opportunity to honor Jason for his inventory management and control expertise.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY



Wastewater Treatment Mannequin Challenge Team

Aleksandr Makuyev
Alex Grabarnik
Briskella Garas
Francis Ronquillo
Donovan Pigott
Edgard Polycarpe
Frank Loncar
Gopesh Mehta

Govin Sanassi
Gregory Desiano
Janette Cruz
Jennifer Cangelosi
Jermaine Smith
Kathryn Critchlow
Komal Saini
Leon Parson

Marcos Perez
Martin Jagsaran
MD Islam
Mikael Amar
Pamela Elardo
Paul Brincat
Qihua Lu
Roody Milord

Santos Ramos
Sergey Komarov
Steven Cubero
Susan Timmins
Syed Bukhari
Wieslaw Parciak
Zainool Ali

The safety and health of all employees is paramount in the execution of DEP's overall mission. In the spirit of promoting a safe work environment, several members of the Bureau of Wastewater Treatment produced an effective demonstration of environmental health and safety by participating in the Agency's recent Mannequin Challenge video contest.

The team's winning video provides the framework for compliance expectations in terms of planning, prioritizing, implementing safe work practices, and continually improving environmental health and safety throughout the Bureau's many facilities. Their creative and humorous approach shows potential workplace hazards encountered by employees on a daily basis, and how best to avoid them.

This memorable first-place entry uniquely communicates environmental health and safety hazards and risks, and the importance of compliance. Today we honor the team's innovation and dedication to environmental health and safety.



Office of Environmental Health & Safety - Tejindra Gharti-Chhetry

Tejindra is receiving this award for his effective management of a project involving the procurement and implementation of portable computers (tablets) within the Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) auditing team. The use of tablets in auditing is a significant accomplishment in advancing the efficiency of the EHS audit process. They reduce the post-audit process time, as work previously completed in the office can now be initiated, and substantially completed, in the field. It is also an environmentally friendly approach as, over time, the dependence on paper by EHS Auditors is expected to decrease significantly moving forward.

To facilitate this undertaking, Tejindra diligently researched best practices on using tablets in auditing, held a series of consultations with the Office of Information Technology (OIT) staff to identify suitable auditing tablet models, and conducted field tests in order to identify the best model with the desired features.

Tejindra diligently followed through with the procurement process, arranged and conducted a joint training class with OIT for the audit staff. Additionally, he procured additional accessories, including a field-carrying bag, to ensure that EHS auditors are comfortable with the tablet and are fully using the device.

Thank you Tejindra for your commitment to environmental health and safety, innovation, and excellence.

COMMISSIONER'S AWARD



The Water Supply Resiliency Project Team: **Susan Darling, Jennifer Farmwald, Sangamithra Iyer, Mark Page, Jr., Philip Simmons**

This inter-bureau team comprised of members from the bureaus of Sustainability, Water Supply, and Engineering, Design & Construction was honored today for its work on issuing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Delaware Aqueduct Repair.

Since the 1990's, DEP has been monitoring leaks in the Delaware Aqueduct, which is one of the two main aqueducts that supply water to New York City. Fixing this 85-mile long aqueduct is a monumental task that requires extensive planning, design, and construction to make the needed repairs. The DEIS is a critical step in this process; it informs the public and other governmental agencies about the project and discloses the project's potential impacts to the environment. The DEIS also allows DEP to move forward with seeking all permits and approvals required to support the upstate program.

Developing and issuing the DEIS was the culmination of a two-year process that included evaluation of all the potential effects of the Delaware Aqueduct repair across many counties that comprise half the state's population. The team performed a series of highly complex tasks, including management of a large consultant contract and coordination with multiple bureaus to develop innovative solutions to minimize the project's environmental impacts. The team also met regularly with constituents in and around the watershed, patiently fielding questions about the project to develop their understanding and build broader support.

Through their collaborative and innovative approach, the DEIS team has played an integral role in helping DEP to ensure the viability of New York City's water supply for generations to come. On behalf of DEP and the residents of both New York City and the upstate communities, we sincerely thank this inter-bureau team for all of its hard work and expertise in developing this critical document.

SPECIAL COMMISSIONER'S AWARD



Burjor Kharivala

A licensed professional engineer in the State of New York, Burjor began his career with the City of New York Department of Public Works designing wastewater treatment tanks for the original Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant in 1963. After a short period as an engineering consultant, Burjor rejoined the Board of Water Supply in 1968 when work was beginning on City Water Tunnel No. 3. Burjor began designing components that would support this massive project and, from that point forward, spent the majority of his career designing the systems that comprise City Water Tunnel No. 3, with its 34 mile-long deep-rock tunnel and its 31 shafts. He also worked on projects at Hillview and Kensico Reservoirs, and the Delaware and Catskill Aqueducts.

Burjor rose through the ranks to become Chief Tunnel Engineer for BEDC. Under his direction, the Van Cortlandt Valve Chamber—a 680 feet long, 50 feet wide, and 60 feet high structure—was blasted out of solid bedrock 280 feet below the ground. Burjor has enthusiastically shared his 50-plus years of engineering and geotechnical expertise with BEDC's In-House Design staff in developing the next generation of in-house tunnel design engineers who, in turn, continue to deliver critical infrastructure projects for the City and who proudly carry forward his legacy. Congratulations Burjor and thanks for your dedicated service. We wish you a happy retirement!



Employee Experience Site Tour Drawing

At today's ceremony, 20 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.

Briskella Garas, Edgard Polycarpe, Aleksandr Makuyev, Francis Ronquillo, Gopesh Mehta, Gregory Desiano, Janette Cruz, Jason Serano, Jennifer Cangelosi, Leon Parson, Paul Brincat, Sergey Komarov, Syed Bukhari, Wieslaw Parciak, Zainool Ali, Bolbol Mikheil, Abdul Jabbar, Robert Howe, Junior Samuel, and Wayne Francis.