



*Delaware Award for  
Excellence and  
Commitment in State Service*

*May 10, 2012*





**135TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE BILL NO. 604**

**AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 29 OF THE DELAWARE CODE BY  
PROVIDING FOR EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION PROGRAMS.**

- WHEREAS, in the name of service, State employees have made great contributions to every aspect of life in the State of Delaware serving in the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches of government; and
- WHEREAS, the effectiveness, efficiency and quality of State government depends in large measure on its employees who provide such a broad range of services that few citizens remain unaffected by their work; and
- WHEREAS, the importance of public services rendered by State employees and the exemplary manner of their performance are too often forgotten and ignored; and
- WHEREAS, that the Statewide Labor-Management Committee has recommended that State take proactive steps to recognize dedication, talents and contributions made by State Employees at all levels of government; and
- WHEREAS, the Recognition Umbrella Committee has developed procedures and guidelines for statewide and agency level employee recognition initiatives,

**NOW THEREFORE: BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:**

Section 1. Amend Chapter 59, Title 29 of the Delaware Code by adding thereto a new Section 5950 to read as follows:

§5950. Employee Recognition.

- (a) It shall be part of the function of State agencies to conduct employee recognition programs for Merit System employees and employees in positions that are assigned to comparable Merit System classes or pay grades. All such Employee recognition programs shall be approved by the State Personnel Director prior to implementation.
- (b) The first full week in May shall be designated Public Service Recognition Week. Employee recognition Programs shall not, however, be confined to this week.

This bill was passed by the House on June 26, 1990, by the Senate on September 25, 1990 and signed into law by Governor Michael N. Castle on October 15, 1990.

# *Awards Recognition Ceremony*

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**May 10, 2012**

*Remarks*

Ann S. Visalli  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget

Anthony J. DeLuca  
State Senate

Darryl M. Scott  
House of Representatives

Justice Henry duPont Ridgely  
Supreme Court of Delaware

Matthew Denn  
Lieutenant Governor

*Keynote Address*

Jack A. Markell  
Governor

*Awards*

Delaware Award for Excellence and  
Commitment in State Service  
~ Recognition of Nominees  
~ Recognition of Recipients

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## *Making a Difference for Delaware*

The thousands of dedicated individuals who make up the state's workforce are state government's most important and valuable resource.

The effectiveness, efficiency and quality of state government depends on the people who provide such a broad range of services that few citizens remain unaffected by their work.

The dedication, talents and contributions of those individuals at all levels of state government are *Making a Difference for Delaware* everyday.

With pride and their commitment to public service, state employees strive for a standard of excellence which in turn enables the citizens to take pride in their state government.

The importance of public service rendered by state employees and the exemplary manner of their performance deserves recognition.

*Making a Difference for Delaware* is a campaign to foster the acknowledgement of the efforts and accomplishments of those in state service.

# STATE OF DELAWARE



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### STATEMENT IN OBSERVANCE OF PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

*Whereas*, millions of public employees at the federal, state, county and city levels dedicate their careers to public service by contributing to professional industries, such as healthcare, education, crime prevention, fire protection, conservation and national defense; and

*Whereas*, in the First State, public servants are the unsung heroes, who perform the work that keeps our nation strong; and

*Whereas*, many of these public servants have taken an oath, swearing to uphold their commitment to improve the quality of life for others; and

*Whereas*, their devotion and commitment to public service often continues through volunteer activities outside of official business hours and into retirement years; and

*Whereas*, many public servants, such as military personnel, police officers, firefighters and healthcare professionals, put their lives at risk on a daily basis to serve their neighbor; and

*Whereas*, the importance of public services provided by public employees and volunteers and the exemplary manner of their performance are too often forgotten or ignored; and

*Whereas*, designating a week to acknowledge these employees provides the opportunity to honor our public servants and remind the public of their accomplishments and the importance of public service.

*Now, Therefore, We, Jack A. Markell, Governor  
and Matthew Denn, Lieutenant Governor,  
do hereby declare May 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012*

### **PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK**

in the State of Delaware and urge all Delawareans to recognize the achievements and contributions of public servants at all levels of government.



*Jack Markell*  
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*Jack A. Markell, Governor*

*Matthew Denn*  
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*Matthew Denn, Lieutenant Governor*

12-0266  
Number

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## *Delaware Award for Excellence and Commitment in State Service*

The Delaware Award for Excellence and Commitment in State Service is an annual statewide award given to employees who exemplify the highest standards of excellence and commitment in state service. Five awards are given annually to individuals or groups of up to five employees that have been nominated by their department.

With the Cabinet Secretary's endorsement, each department submits nominations for the Delaware Award for Excellence and Commitment in State Service. A nine-member Selection Committee reviews the nominations and selects five recipients.

The Governor presents the awards to recipients at the annual Recognition Awards Ceremony. This event is held during Public Service Recognition Week in the first full week of May. Nominees and recipients for the Delaware Award for Excellence and Commitment in State Service are presented with certificates and Tributes from the General Assembly.

Congratulations to all nominees and recipients of the 2012 Delaware Award for Excellence and Commitment in State Service.

**Brian Forte**  
**Department of Correction**  
**Bureau of Prisons**

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In the past year, Sergeant Forte, a supervisor at the Howard R. Young Correctional Institute, has displayed courage and heroism in the face of three major emergency situations. These situations included providing assistance to a visitor who went into medical distress while at the facility, resolving a dangerous domestic confrontation in which one of the parties was suspected of being armed, and coming to the aid of a co-worker attempting to take a violent suspect into custody. His courage and quick action to these emergency situations protected the lives and well being of others and inspired his coworkers.

**Arline M. Fisher**  
**Department of Finance**  
**Division of Revenue**

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Arline, a 26-year employee of the department, is well known for her approachability, friendliness, and dedication to serving the citizens of Delaware. Her experience and knowledge enables her to serve the division's customer needs, no matter how complex they are. Over the years, she has been the most complimented person on the Public Service staff, and customers come in and ask for her by name. In 2011, she was directly responsible for the collection of over \$125 million in cigarette stamp revenue for the State. She was also a key member of the team that developed an automated process for vendors to purchase and receive cigarette stamps. Arline's high ethical standards and vast experience have made her a role model who is held in the highest esteem by those who work with her.

## **Stacy Watkins**

**Department of Services for Children, Youth, and Their Families  
Division of Prevention and Behavior Health Services**

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In addition to performing her regular assignments, Stacy demonstrates exceptional leadership skills and personal initiative which have had a direct impact on the daily operations of her agency and on the youth in their care. During this past year, her detailed analysis of invoices from a medical vendor for the Brenford Residential Treatment Center program saved her agency over \$14,000. She also took on voluntary responsibilities to help the youth in her agency's care to develop independent living skills and learn about making choices that will ultimately give them a better chance for success in the future. Stacy is dedicated to her work and committed to doing the right thing.

**Anna Bellantoni**  
**Department of Transportation**  
**Delaware Transit Corporation**

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Anna's rapid response to an accident she witnessed while driving her paratransit bus earlier this year was exceptional. While travelling on Route 1, Anna noticed a car in front her begin to swerve back and forth. The car then blew out one of its tires, spun out of control, and flipped over onto the road. Although shaken by what she had seen, she calmly and professionally stopped her bus at safe distance behind the disabled vehicle, checked on her passenger's welfare, contacted emergency authorities, and then got out to help. She worked with other motorists to help the family out of their vehicle and checked for any injuries. Anna instinctively and competently assisted the family while being continuously mindful of the safety of all the people, including her passenger. Anna's alertness and quick reactions helped make a difference that day.

**Bruce Furry and Sinath Sam**  
**Department of Transportation**  
**Maintenance and Operations**

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Driving back from a job site on a hot, humid summer day, Bruce and Sinath noticed a person lying on the ground behind a house. When they turned around to see if the person needed help, they found an elderly woman lying on the hot driveway. The woman's forehead was cut, and she was unable to get up. They helped her get out of the heat and into her house. Although the woman said she was feeling better, Bruce and Sinath remained concerned for her safety. They insisted on staying with her until they could reach someone who could stay and help her more. They reached the woman's daughter and stayed until she arrived. The woman was later hospitalized for heatstroke. By taking the time and effort to see if the woman needed help and making sure that she was not left alone, Bruce and Sinath probably saved her life.

# *2011 Nominees for the Delaware Award for*

<b>Employee Names</b>	<b>Category of Nomination</b>	
John Petersen	Innovative Ideas	
Andrena Hurley and Stephenie Tatman	Exceptional Accomplishment	
Brian Forte *	Heroic Act	
Melissa Kearney	Exceptional Accomplishment	
William Oettel	Exceptional Accomplishment	
George L. Wyatt	Exceptional Accomplishment	
Arline M. Fisher *	Exceptional Accomplishment	
Teresa Ritter	Exceptional Accomplishment	
Kathleen Clifford and Bertha Naumann	Exceptional Accomplishment	
Gayle King	Exceptional Accomplishment	
Christine Long	Exceptional Accomplishment	
Frann Anderson	Innovative Ideas	
Carol Jones	Outstanding Perseverance	
Heather Comstock	Exceptional Accomplishment	
Ken Reynolds	Innovative Ideas	
Aaron Schrader	Exceptional Accomplishment	
Denise Matz	Outstanding Perseverance	
Nicholas Lindale	Innovative Ideas	
Larry Hamby	Exceptional Accomplishment	
Stacy Watkins *	Exceptional Accomplishment	
Benjamin Sauselein	Exceptional Accomplishment	
Suzanne Morris	Exceptional Accomplishment	
Anna Bellantoni *	Heroic Act	
Bruce Furry and Sinath Sam *	Heroic Act	

*\* Denotes award recipient*

# *Excellence and Commitment in State Service*

## Department

Department of Agriculture

Auditor of Accounts

Department of Correction

Department of Correction

Department of Correction

Court of Common Pleas

Department of Finance

Department of Health and Social Services

Department of Insurance

Department of Labor

Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

Office of Management and Budget

Public Defender's Office

Department of Safety and Homeland Security

Department of Services for Children, Youth, and Their Families

Department of Services for Children, Youth, and Their Families

Department of State

Department of Technology and Information

Department of Transportation

Department of Transportation

# *Award Selection Committee*

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The committee reviews all nominations and convenes to select five recipients that are recommended to the Governor to receive the Delaware Award for Excellence and Commitment in State Service.

Jeffrey W. Bullock	Department of State
Valerie McCartan	Senate Staff
Jerry Grant	House of Representatives Staff
Linda McCloskey	Office of Management and Budget
Michael A. Begatto	Statewide Labor-Management Committee
Jennifer Fitzsimmons	Department of Natural Resource and Environmental Control
Michael Cocuzza	Department of Correction
Gail Ingram-Smith	Department of Agriculture
Donna Shamblin	United Electric Supply

Thanks to the committee for carefully reviewing each nomination and coming together to select the award recipients.

# *Thank You*

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Special thanks for assistance with event planning: Ann Visalli, Bert Scoglietti, Linda McCloskey, Amy Bonner, Debra Gerardi, Cathy Rossi, Valerie McCartan, Bernard Brady, Darlene Hicken-Gott, Trudy Mifflin, Robin Harding, Debbie Carey, Jeanette Christian, Valerie Watson, Glenn Garrett, Lori Watts, Thompson Hospitality, and Delaware State University.

Special thanks to Christopher Portante, Dept. of State for photography services.

Special thanks to the agency recognition coordinators who, in addition to their regular duties, make time to plan events and come up with unique ways to recognize the employees in their respective agencies. Agency recognition coordinators are:

Anthony Albence, NCC Elections; Barbara Bennett, Treasury; Debbie Carey, Agriculture; Jeanette Christian, Correction; Jennifer Dickinson, DELJIS; Jacqui Thornton, Criminal Justice Council; Patricia Diienno, Courts; Mary Jane Donnelly and Valerie Watson, Finance; Sally Wojcieszyn, DEDO; Barbara Bigelow, DNREC; Glenn Garrett, State; Joseph Smack and Dana Sawyer, DSCYF; Susan Givens, Fire Marshall; Deborah Grier, Com. of Elections; Diane Haase, Justice; Robin Harding and Pamela Harrison, DSHS; Kimberly Judy, Auditor; Roberta Jones, Insurance; Robbie Weakland and Janice Jordan, DelDOT; Trudy Mifflin, OMB; Bonnie Miller, Labor; Christine Murabito, Fire School; Tamara Napier, Public Defender; Kim Thornton, DTI; Wanda Spiering and Arlene Fordham, Housing; Reggie Brown and Lori Watts, DHSS, and Mary Cooke, Education.

An outline map of the state of Delaware is centered on the page. The text is overlaid on the map in a black, cursive font. A small five-pointed star is positioned in the center of the map, above the word "for".

*Making a  
Difference  
★  
for  
Delaware*