

The Delaware Governor's Awards Ceremony

Recognizing State Employees,
Teams, and Heroes

MAY 6, 2024



**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.

2023 Awards Recognition Ceremony

Opening Claire DeMatteis
Secretary
Department of Human Resources

*Presentation of
Colors* Department of Correction
Honor Guard

*Singing of the
National Anthem* Serenity Fleming
Department of Natural Resources
and Environmental Control

Chief Justice Collins Seitz
Supreme Court of Delaware

Remarks Speaker Valerie Longhurst
House of Representatives

Director Emeritus Dick Carter
State Senate

*Keynote
Address* Governor John C. Carney
State of Delaware

Claire DeMatteis
Secretary, Department of Human Resources

*Presentation
of Awards* Barbara McCleary
Director, Training & HR Solutions

Tracey Connolly
Statewide Recognition Coordinator

Delaware Award for Excellence and Commitment in State Service

~ Nominees ~

Jacob Carey

Department of Transportation

Wendy Duvall

Department of Services for Children, Youth & Their Families

**Megan Hendrick,
Molly Johnson, J. Michelle Leonowich,
Kristen Steele, and Taylor Troxell**

Department of Services for Children, Youth & Their Families

Danielle Francois

Department of Health and Social Services

Tammy Gsell-Cannon

Department of Agriculture and Human Resources

Ashley Lebo

Department of Human Resources

Desiree May

Department of State

Alicia McDaniel

Department of Health and Social Services

Joseph Morneau

Department of Health and Social Services

Tiasha Shockley

Department of Finance

Delaware Award for Excellence and Commitment in State Service

~ Recipients ~

Caleb Bontrager

Department of Technology and Information

Jason Gingerich

Department of Health and Social Services

Rebecca Salmon

Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

Jessica Jason-Torres

Department of Health and Social Services

Charlotte Walsh

Justice of the Peace Courts

Governor's Team Excellence Awards

Commitment Award Recipients

Claymont Transportation Center Team

Department of Transportation

Team Leader: Breanna Kovach

Team Members

Renae Bailey, David Campbell, Lanie Clymer, Bruce Demeter, Dennis Donovan, Sean Finerty, Phillip Grazela, Shanté Hastings, Mike Hummel, Tina King, Deborah Kukulich, Jonathan Ledger, Jeff Leonard, Gerald Nagyiski, Michael Neal, John Sisson, Alex Snyder, Joseph Spadaro, and Vanshiedh Togbanyahn

Peer Support in Long-Term Care Team

Department of Health and Social Services

Team Leader: Frances Marti

Team Members

Terry Cowan, Kris Fraser, Barnabas Kerkula, Karen Records, Jessica Ryan, Candace Wilkinson, Melissa Winters, Aaron Russell, Mike Satterfield, Angela Johnson, and Marneisha Whaley

Governor's Team Excellence Awards

Champions Award Recipients

FOCUS Team

Department of Services for Children, Youth & Their Families

Team Leader: Kimberlee Pepper

Team Members

Thomas Comerford, Dhruvil Dalwadi, Christel Davis, Frank Davis, Melissa Fox, Devon Kehrer, Marcella Krause, Margie Ma, Kathryn Maurer, Amanda McFarland, Toshonda McKie, Jasyra Nesmith, Angela Palmer, Kimberly Scully, Wayne Smiley, Lisa Williams, and Yu-Chia Wu

Delaware State Police Aviation Section Team

Department of Safety and Homeland Security

Team Leader: Jeffrey Whitmarsh

Team Members

Jason Baxley, Carol Parton, Jennifer Potocki, Matthew Pragg, and William White

Unifier Migration Team

Department of Transportation

Team Leader: John Caruano

Team Members

Alavudeen Abdulsamath, Srinivas Bachavala, Cassidy Blowers, Karynn Butler, Rose Coleman, Brad Damtoft, Omprakash Gupta, Jie Huang, Sahithreddy Katpally, Sanjay Kumar, Prathmesh Mehta, Kelly Miller, Suresh Pamidi, Kyle Pickett, Todd Reavis, Billy Sweeney, Lim Tan, and Tara Tyre

SNAP Stolen Benefit Replacement Workgroup

Department of Health and Social Services

Team Leader: Jessica Horn

Team Members

Shane Cannon, Valerie Cannon, Eileen Cozzi-Bodnar, Alison Fox, Ashley Gianacoplis, Denise Greenfield, Dorine Henry-Richard, Jim Hudson, Gina Jimenez, April Johnson, Carolyn Kincade, Nilda Martinez, Racquel McIntosh, Katrina Payne, Kenneth Sharp, Maggie Smith, Debra Wallace, and Erica Yancy

Governor's Team Excellence Awards

GEAR P3 Innovation and Efficiency Award

DHR Agile Workspace Project Team

Department of Human Resources

Department of Technology and Information

Team Leader: Cherie Dodge Biron and Edward Moran

Team Members

Joshua Austin, Lamar Demby, Kevin Graber,
John Greenage, Clayton McGill, Andrew Starobynski,
and Johnathan Welch

DSS Unwinding Team

Department of Health and Social Services

Team Leader: Carolyn Kincaid & Ashley Gianacopolis

Team Members

Kara Bristow, Dana Cook, Steph Fitzgerald,
Shynell Formey, Kelsey Gordy, Denise Greenfield,
Belvie Herbert, Jessica Horn, Gina Jimenez,
April Johnson, Clarence Richardson, Tina Skinner,
Maggie Smith, Francine Stone, Joanne Sunga,
Julius Timmons, Essence Thomas, Jennifer Timothy,
and Valerie Turner

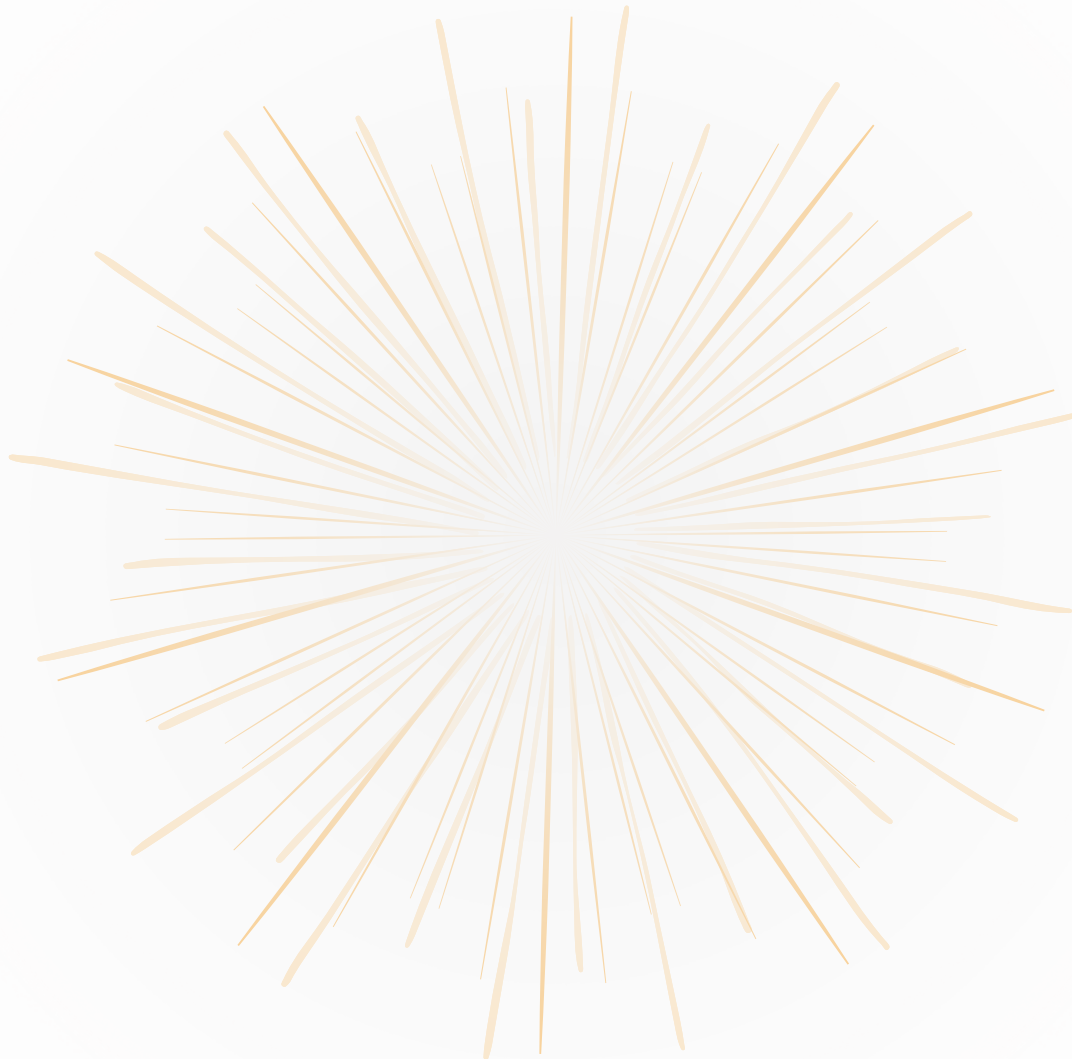
Continuous Quality Improvement Initiative Team

Department of Health and Social Services

Team Leader: Molly Merrill

Team Members

Dortris Downs, Rodney Farrar, Maliat Islam,
Amy Maguire, James Monahan, William Morett,
and Zachary Rezac



GEAR P3 Trailblazer Award Recipients

Ashley Kavanagh

Department of Human Resources

HR Curriculum Development Project

Ashley Lebo, Alex LeClaire & James Robinson

Department of Human Resources

Department of Technology and Information

DHR Digitalization Project

Jerrica Boyer & Tina Selby Ware

Department of Services for Children, Youth & Their Families

Comprehensive Review Tool Project

Ke'Andra Hackett, Nicole Jingoian, Barnabas Kerkula & Melissa Winters

Department of Health and Social Services

Connect Community Project

Delaware Award for Heroism

~ Recipients ~

Juan Arroyo-Camacho

Department of Transportation

Thomas Catalfamo

Department of Safety and Homeland Security
Delaware State Police

Adam DeLucia

Department of Transportation

Michael Downes & Matthew Sampson

Department of Transportation

Matthew Lichtenstein

Department of Transportation

Sara Miller, Tracy Purnell, & Sasha Rampersad

Department of Labor

John Walker

Department of Transportation

Delaware Award for Excellence and Commitment in State Service ~ Selection Committee ~

| | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Kim Adams | Angela LaManna |
| Dick Carter | Patty Moore |
| Claire DeMatteis | Leslie Reese |
| Nadeim Ghoryani | Lisa Tingle |
| Kerri Evelyn Harris | |

Governor's Team Excellence and GEAR P3 Trailblazer Awards Selection Committee

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Charles Clark | Baljinder Kamboj |
| Claire DeMatteis | Angela LaManna |
| Vernita Dorsey | Patti Pfarrer |
| Jason Hasting | Steve Yeatman |

Special Thank You To Our Sponsors

**Our Private Sector Partners whose support helped
make this year's GEAR Awards possible:**

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Buccini Pollin Group | M&T Bank |
| Corporation Services Company | Morris James LLP |
| DuPont | The Precisionists Inc. |
| Highmark BCBS Delaware | W.L. Gore & Associates |
| JP Morgan Chase Bank | WSFS Bank |

Thank You to our State Recognition Coordinators

Department of Agriculture
Debbie Carey (DHR)

Auditor of Accounts Office
Andrea Bayline
Tori Parker
Robert Sisk

Department of Correction
Ceirra Hopkins (DHR)
Tracy Scott (DHR)
Holly Stacy (DHR)

Administrative Office of the Courts
Zoe Carter
Shawnta Jackson

Criminal Justice Council
Jacqui Thornton

DE Criminal Justice Information System
Jennifer Dickinson

Department of Education
Sheri Minear

Elections
Anthony Albence

Department of Finance
Mona Abbott (DHR)

Fire Marshall's Office
Michael Chionchio
Rebekah LePore

Delaware State Fire School
Christine Murabito

Office of the Governor
Tamara Ben Addi (DHR)

Delaware State Housing Authority
Shelly Huntington

Department of Human Resources
Lori Watts
Rebekah Taylor
Cherie Dodge Biron (DHR)

Department of Health and Social Services
Lori Watts (DHR)

Delaware Insurance Department
Brenda Prillaman

Department of Justice
Diane Haase

Department of Labor
Stacey Bragg
Wanda Holifield

Office of Management and Budget
Tamara Ben Addi (DHR)

Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
Leslie Reese

Office of the Public Defender
Tamara Napier

Department of Safety and Homeland Security
Tammy Menard
Donna Moran

Department of Services for Children, Youth & Their Families
Christal Graciano

Department of State
Lisa Callaway

Department of Technology and Information
Linda Hyler (DHR)
Kim Thornton (DHR)

Department of Transportation
Sierra Martinez (DHR)

Delaware State Treasury
Lindy Scott

We would also like to thank:

Modern Maturity Center: Venue & Catering

Daniel Sato, Jonathon Pederson, & Wade Stimeling: Videos and Livestreaming

Serenity Fleming: National Anthem

Department of Correction: Honor Guard

Charles Clark, Daniel Madrid, and Bryan Sullivan: GEAR Program Management Team

Those behind the scenes...

Lee Ashlock

Ashley Blok

Reginal Brown

Kit Carson

Amber Clendaniel

Tracey Connolly

Darlene Hicken-Gott

Kraig Hoffman

Tom Johnson

Ashley Kavanagh

Caroline Klinger

Matthew Koon

Shelley Koon

Barbara McCleary

Daneen Ratigan

James Robinson

Larry Trunfio

Lori Watts