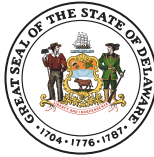


# GOVERNOR'S ANNUAL EMPLOYEE AWARDS CEREMONY

Recognizing State Employees, Teams, and Heroes



MAY 5, 2026



**135B 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 or ignored; and

WHEREAS, the Statewide Labor-Management Committee has recommended that the State take proactive steps to recognize the 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 comparable Merit System classes or paygrades. 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 5, 1990, and signed into law by Governor Michael N. Castle on October 15, 1990.



# 2025 GOVERNOR'S ANNUAL EMPLOYEE AWARDS CEREMONY

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## OPENING

**YVONNE ANDERS GORDON**

Secretary | Department of Human Resources

## PRESENTATION OF COLORS

Department of Correction Honor Guard

## SINGING OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

**Deborah Hawkins**

Department of Human Resources

**Candyce Rogers**

Delaware Transit Corporation

**Valere Waymmann**

Department of Human Resources

## REMARKS

**Chief Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr**

Delaware Supreme Court

**Senator S. Elizabeth Lockman**

Delaware State Senate

**Representative William Bush**

Delaware State House of Representatives

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**Governor Matt Meyer**

State of Delaware

## PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

**Jim Robinson**

Director, Training & HR Solutions

**Ashley Kavanagh**

State Human Resources Administrator, Training & HR Solutions

**Michael Smith**

Secretary, Department of Finance



# DELAWARE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE AND COMMITMENT IN STATE SERVICE

## NOMINEES

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### **Christine Beste**

Department of Homeland Security

### **Sarah Bowers**

Administrative Office of the Courts

### **Troi Irving**

Department of Health and Social Services

### **Gisele Landry**

Department of Health and Social Services

### **Ashley Melvin**

Department of Agriculture

### **Nancy Neufang-Stopyra**

Department of Health and Social Services

### **Arthur Powell**

Department of Technology and Information

### **Kimberly Scully**

Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families



# DELAWARE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN COMMITMENT AND STATE SERVICE RECIPIENTS

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## April Arrington

Department of Transportation

## Laurie Cahall

Department of Health and Social Services

## Jeff Leonard

Department of Transportation

## Aaron Schrader

Department of Human Resources

## Eva Steele

Department of Health and Social Services



They embody the spirit of service — a willingness to find meaning in something greater than themselves.

- *President Barack Obama*



# GOVERNOR'S TEAM EXCELLENCE AWARDS CHAMPIONS AWARD RECIPIENTS

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## ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLE TEAM

Department of Transportation

**Team Leaders | Kami Beers and Jacob Carey**

**Team Members:**

Theresa Abad, Amy Anthony, Kathryn Beasley, Michael Borreggine, Robyn Bose, William Bowden, Nicole Brown, Nora Carlisle, Karen Carson, Moir Edwards, Francis Hala, George Jones, Elizabeth Kukulich, Satya Madathingal Arjunan, Christine Muraska, Samith Musthyala, Fred Pusey, Shweta Raj, Koushik Saha, Faith SanDiego, Levi Starr, Jillian Troumouhis, and Theresa Vander Schel

## AVIAN INFLUENZA RESPONSE TEAM

Department of Agriculture

**Team Leader | Karen Lopez**

**Team Members:**

Stephanie Alexander, Brian Arisman, Evan Brittingham, Lexus Butler, Valerie Forbes, Clint Gill, Tammy Gsell-Cannon, Kyle Hoyd, Nichole Krambeck, Jamie Mack, Oliver Menard, Andrew Miles, Jennifer Morgan, Eric Reid, Rebecca Schaller, Sam Topper, Robert Tull, Laura Upham, Brooke Walls, and Lisa Wildermuth

## BLACKBIRD CREEK BRIDGE REPLACEMENT TEAM

Department of Transportation

**Team Leader | Nicholas Dean**

**Team Members:**

Kyle Bogner, Mark Desantis, D.J. Fechtman, Michael Gettings, Matthew Goins, Jason Hastings, Charles McLeod, Mike Postorivo, James Puddicombe, Kieran Pyle, Jeremy Reeves, Bradford Saborio, Justin Smith, Craig Stevens, Paul Steves, Scott Walls, and Brandon Winters



# GOVERNOR'S TEAM EXCELLENCE AWARDS GEAR P3 INNOVATION AND EFFICIENCY AWARD RECIPIENTS

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## CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT POST-PERMANENCY SUCCESS COMMITTEE

Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families

**Team Leader | Christine Weaver**

**Team Members:**

Tobi Appelman, Susan Burns, Moira Dillon, Stephanie Guiswite, Megan Hendrick, Belvie Herbert, Tracy Matthews, Amanda McFarland, Alana Moffa, Angela Palmer, Ana Prosceno, Trinetta Redinger Ramsey, Joseph Smack, Kimberly Warren, and Tracy Whitehouse

## DELAWARE TREATMENT AND REFERRAL NETWORK CARE COORDINATION PLATFORM (DTRN360) TEAM

Department of Health and Social Services

**Team Leaders | Karen Records and Michelle Singletary-Twyman**

**Team Members:**

Rosario Carandang, Lisa Colterelli, Trevelyn Jerrick-White, Lezley Sexton, and Stacey Simon



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

- Margaret Mead



# GEAR P3 TRAILBLAZER AWARD RECIPIENTS

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## SYSTEMS INTEGRATION WITH MEAL PROVIDERS TEAM

Department of Health and Social Services

### Team Members:

Dortris Downs, Allison Hendrickson, and Amy Maguire

## JUVENILE CIVIL CITATION TEAM

Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families

### Team Members:

Joanna Campbell, Ginny Franklin, Marie McLaughlin, Georgia Vaughn, and Emily White

## THE SMART SIMPLE IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

Department of Safety and Homeland Security

### Team Members:

Christine Beste and Thomas Schultz

## THE SOCIAL EQUITY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (SEFA) GRANT PROGRAM

Department of Safety and Homeland Security

Taylor Shannon



*Everybody can be great, because  
anybody can serve.*

*- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr*



# DELAWARE AWARD FOR HEROISM RECIPIENTS

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**Darrin Coverdale, Adam DeLucia, Mario Glover,  
Patricia Hunt, Carol Lacey, James Pyle,  
and Crystal Reaves**

Department of Transportation

**Brian Downward, David Faulkner,  
and Waylon Mabrey**

Department of Transportation

**Mary Clark**

Department of Transportation

**Stewart Douglass**

Department of Transportation

**Christopher Coulston, Jason Leshem,  
and Greg Neal**

Department of Transportation

**James Rash and Trevor Rummel**

Department of Transportation

**Stephen Bayer, Derek Sapp, Ryan Schroder,  
Randhir Sharma, and Kelly Valencik**

Department of Transportation

**Mark Ferguson**

Department of Health and Social Services



# DELAWARE AWARD FOR HEROISM RECIPIENTS

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Andrea Flores-Cornejo, Dan Logan, Maria Mesias-Tatnall, Jenna Milecki, Guillermo Santiago, and  
Paige Schmittinger

Department of Justice

Hayley Mehalshick, Savannah Rust,  
and Amanda West

Department of Labor

## SPECIAL TRIBUTE

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**Corporal Grade One Matthew T. “Ty” Snook**

Delaware State Police

Department of Safety and Homeland Security



*Day after day, ordinary people become  
heroes through extraordinary and selfless  
actions to help their neighbors.*

*- Sylvia Mathews Burwell*



# ABOUT THE AWARDS

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## DELAWARE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE AND COMMITMENT IN STATE SERVICE

Established in 1990, this award recognizes up to five individuals or small groups (up to five employees) for their outstanding accomplishments, contributions, and performance in state service. This recognition may be based on the results of a one-time special act, outstanding service or accomplishment, or sustained excellence over time. Many nominees for this statewide award are selected from the Employees of the Year within their agencies.

## GEAR P3 TRAILBLAZER AWARD

This award, inspired by the Governor's Team Excellence Award, honors individual employees or teams of up to five state employees for work on projects that enhance government efficiency. Recipients are recognized not only for using continuous quality tools to achieve excellent outcomes but also for developing innovative designs and processes, establishing best practices, and producing sustainable results that can be adapted to other areas of government.



*Every individual matters. Every individual has a role to play. Every individual makes a difference.*

*- Jane Goodall*



# ABOUT THE AWARDS

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## GOVERNOR'S TEAM EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Governor's Team Excellence Award Program was created to recognize and encourage teamwork and collaboration within state government. It is presented to teams of up to 20 state employees who have demonstrated excellence by working together and using continuous improvement tools to deliver superior customer service, improve work processes, reduce costs, and discover innovative ways of doing business. The program has two levels of recognition: Champions Award and the GEAR P3 Innovation and Efficiency Award.

### ◆ CHAMPIONS AWARD

This award recognizes teams that demonstrate a superior level of knowledge and use of continuous quality improvement tools and techniques. They must also have produced tangible results that lead to significant increases in efficiency, customer satisfaction, and/or cost savings.

### ◆ GEAR P3 INNOVATION AND EFFICIENCY AWARD

This award recognizes teams with the highest levels of performance excellence and is sponsored through a public-private partnership (P3) initiative. It honors teams that not only use continuous improvement techniques to achieve excellent outcomes but also develop innovative designs and processes, establish best practices, and produce verifiable results that are sustainable, scalable, and adaptable to other areas of government. These teams serve as clear role models for other organizations.



# ABOUT THE AWARDS

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## DELAWARE AWARD FOR HEROISM

This award recognizes acts of heroism and courage that go above and beyond the call of duty. Recipients of this award must have demonstrated outstanding judgment, exceptional courage, extraordinary decisiveness and presence of mind, and unusual swiftness of action, regardless of their own personal safety, in the attempt to save or protect human life and/or property.



A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination.

- Nelson Mandela



## DELAWARE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE AND COMMITMENT IN STATE SERVICE SELECTION COMMITTEE

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Yvonne Anders Gordon  
Terra Taylor  
Edward Osienki  
Dick Carter  
Racquel McIntosh

Katelynn Cahall  
Tina Wagner  
Faith Morris  
Tasha Olfus

## GOVERNOR'S TEAM EXCELLENCE AND GEAR P3 TRAILBLAZER AWARDS SELECTION COMMITTEE

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Aundrea Almond  
Yvonne Anders Gordon  
Joshua Bushweller  
Charles Clark  
Albert Shields

Natalie Keefer  
Margaret Zimmerman  
Faith Morris  
Jacob Carey

## SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR P3 SPONSORS

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Becker Morgan Group  
BPG  
CSC  
Delmarva Power  
Highmark BCBS Delaware

JPMorgan Chase  
M&T Bank  
Morris James  
The Precisionists, Inc. (TPI)  
W.L. Gore & Associates



# THANK YOU TO OUR STATE RECOGNITION COORDINATORS

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## **Department of Agriculture**

George Class-Peters

Jimmy Kroon

## **Office of Auditor of Accounts**

Tori Parker

Michelle Salgado

## **Department of Correction**

Melanie Keenan (DHR)

Doris Tatman (DHR)

## **Administrative Office of the Courts**

Zoe Carter

Shawnta M. Jackson

Sarah Bowers

## **Criminal Justice Council**

Jacqui Thornton

## **Delaware Justice Information System**

Jennifer Dickinson

## **Delaware State Housing Authority**

Melissa Cullen

## **Delaware State Fire Marshall's Office**

Rebekah L. LePore

## **Delaware State Fire School**

Sharon Barr

## **Delaware State Police**

Deborah M Kleszics

Caitlin Ochoa

## **Department of Education**

Sheri Minear

## **Commissioner of Elections**

Anthony Albence

## **Department of Finance**

Diane Bourne

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Vicky Ford

## **Department of Health and Social Services**

Rachael Ferro

Rebecca Reichardt

## **Department of Human Resources**

Richard Potter (DHR)

## **Department of Insurance**

Brenda Malloy

Roberta Jones

Brenda Prillaman

## **Department of Justice**

Victoria Vazquez

## **Department of Labor**

Donna Long

Joshua E Miller

## **Legislative Hall**

Mark Cutrona

Ryan C Dunphy

Bobbie Higgs

Colinda Marker

## **Office of Management and Budget**

Jill Siena

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Emily Walker

Janella Sapp

## **Office of the Public Defender**

Tamara C. Napier

## **Department of Safety and Homeland Security**

Tammy Menard

Donna Moran

## **Department of Service for Children, Youth and their Families**

Alison McGonigal

Christal Edwards

Kelvin Maldonado

## **Department of State**

Ronda E Ramsburg

## **Department of Transportation**

Sierra Martinez (DHR)

Arthur J. Merriweather (DHR)

## **Department of Technology and Information**

Kimberly Thornton

## **Office of State Treasurer**

Deborah L. Bradl

Monai Roberts



## WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK:

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**Honor Guard:** Department of Corrections

**National Anthem:** Deborah Hawkins, Candyce Rogers,  
and Valere Waymman

**Deafinitions & Interpreting:** ASL Translators

**Video and Livestreaming:** Video and Livestreaming

**Venue and Catering:** Modern Maturity Center

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

## AND THOSE BEHIND THE SCENES....

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Ashley Blok

Daneen Ratigan

Marvin Mack

Beatrix Nowak

## AND THE TRAINING AND HR SOLUTIONS TEAM:

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Keisha Brown

Rob Lee

Reginald Brown

Nicolaas Leloux

Lisa Callaway

Sierra Martinez

Rodney (Kit) Carson

Barbara McCleary

Amber Clendaniel

Arthur Merriweather

Judy Cook

Maya Rattan

Darlene Hicken-Gott

James P Robinson

Kraig Hoffmann

Larry Trunfio

Tom Johnson

Bobbi Tyree-Edwards

Ashley Kavanagh

Dawn Warman

Matthew Koon

Jessica Washer

Shelley Koon

Lori Watts

Follow the QR Code to view photos from  
this event on the Delaware Department  
of Human Resource's Flickr Page.

