



Gloucester Department of Community Education

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GLOUCESTER RECEIVES SIX (6) NACo Awards

Gloucester County received six National Association of Counties (NACo) 2009 Achievement Awards recognizing innovative county programs. Gloucester Board of Supervisors Chairperson, Michelle Ressler announced the awards at the board's July 7th regular meeting for the following county services, programs or initiatives:

- **Gloucester Library Summer Reading Program Web-Based Application:** The Youth Services' staff of the Gloucester Library collaborated with staff from the Department of Information Technology to design a web application program that would allow participants in the Summer Reading Program to register for the program and record their progress online. Receiving the award were Kathy Barrows & Jeanne Drechsel with Gloucester Library and Brian Burchett & Kenneth Lawson with Information Technology
- **Online Community Development System:** The Online Community Development System allows the county departments of Planning, Codes Compliance, Environmental, Public Utilities, Assessment, and Commissioner of Revenue's Office to share information under a unified work flow system that tracks and records development projects from beginning to end. Receiving the award were George Bains and Scott Varner with Information Technology and Ron Peaks, Paul Koll, Denise Canada, Celeste DeSimone and Scott Rae with Codes Compliance.

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- **Affordable Workforce Housing Initiative:** The Gloucester County Resource Council, a network of 45 human service organizations in Gloucester identified affordable/workforce housing as a priority issue and through a collaborative process with the departments of Housing and Planning, and the Advisory Board on Housing, worked to bring awareness to the issue that resulted in the support for, and completion of, a Gloucester County Affordable Housing and Needs Assessment Study. Receiving the award were Janet Gomez, Gloucester Resource Council Chairperson and Michael Shifflett with the Department of Housing.
- **Gloucester Methamphetamine Task Force:** The Gloucester Methamphetamine Task Force developed and implemented a plan to protect citizens and the community from the dangers of methamphetamine, a highly addictive drug whose abuse was reaching epidemic proportions across the nation. Receiving the award on behalf of the task force was Teresa Altemus, past co-chairperson of the task force.
- **Historic Courthouse Circle Restoration:** Gloucester County has one of the most unique and historical colonial courthouse circles in the United States. Restoration efforts have, and continue to be conducted to ensure the buildings remain public assets for the next 250 years. Staff from Public Works, Building and Grounds and Parks, Recreation and Tourism played a major role in renovation efforts. Receiving the award were Carol Steele & Jenny Graziano with Parks, Recreation and Tourism and John Dempsey, Carl McGuire, Wade Pyatt, Fritz Mesch, Curt Hughes, and Kim Loper with Building & Grounds.
- **Full Service School Partnership Project:** The *Full Service School Project* is an innovative partnership approach to addressing the needs of children and families in an elementary school setting. The *Full Service School Project* provides for a team of human service professionals who

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NACo Achievement Awards

work collaboratively with school personnel to identify needs, recommend services and resources and make referrals to serve youth and families. The project is currently piloted at Bethel and Petsworth Elementary Schools and is under the sponsorship of the Gloucester Community Policy and Management Team. Receiving the award on behalf of all those involved with the program were Cindy Thomas & Valerie Lewis with the Gloucester Department of Community Education; Evelyn Perhac, Petsworth Elementary School Principal & Paul McLean, Bethel Elementary School Principal.

Gloucester Board of Supervisors member Gregory Woodard will be accepting the awards on behalf of Gloucester County during NACo's 74th Annual Conference and Exposition in Tennessee on July 26, 2009. For more information on the awards program and a full list of winning programs visit NACO's website at <http://www.naco.org/>.

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