

AWARD RECIPIENTS' NARRATIVE FOR 2012 CEREMONY:

The following members of the Bureau of Finance and Administration are receiving the Department's Teamwork Award:

BRUCE ADELSTEIN	MICHAEL FARINELLA	MELISSA MARTONE
DAVID ALFREDSON	PAMELA FLANAGAN	PAUL MAZZA
JANINE ALLEVO	CARISSA FOX	LINDA MCALLISTER
BENEDICTO ANDAYA	MARY FREEMAN	DAVID MCCOY
SANDRA ARMSTRONG	MAUREEN GALLIGAN	DARREN MEYERS
NORMA AYALA	LISA GILES	ALLISON PALMER
DANA BARCHI	COLLEEN GREINER	LORRAINE PARIS
ROBERT BARRIO	CHRISTINE HARLEY	ANTONIA PITRUZZELLO
WILLIAM BARTENSTEIN	ROBERT HARRISON	CATERINA POND
CAROL BELINA	MARK HAYES	HEDWIG PORTO
HAROLD BELLUCCI	DONNA HERMANN	CAROLYN RATAIC
ALAN BERNOTAS	VINCENT HOGAN	ARNELL RICHARDSON
COURTNEY BLANKS	DARA HOWARD	MARY RINALDI
SHAWN BOISCLAIR	PATRICIA HUSTUS	ANDREW ROKYCKY
AVRIL BROWN	SANDRA INFANTINO	JOHN RYNG
LINDA CARPENING	KRISTA JANKOVICH	RAFAEL SERRANO
STACY CHOTI	JOHN KEEFE	MARILYN SHUMA
EVELYN CRUZ-CABRERA	EDWARD KIELY	LACHANDA SMITH
ANGELA D'AGATA	KAREN KENNON	VERONICA SMITH
CHRISTIAN DAVIS	MAUREEN KENT	YUBO SONG
DONOVAN DELGADO	YELENA KIRIYAN	KURT SPRING
TINA DIBACCO	JOSEPH LEONARDI	DOUGLAS STOLTENBERG
GERALD DOBEK	WALLACE LUGLI	AVA TORELLO
EUGENE FALCONE	ELIZABETH MANNA	SHANTELE VARRS
JOYCE FAMIGLIETTI	DAVID MARKOWSKI	WENDY WOZNICA

With the long transition to Core-CT and the implementation of a new federal billing system, the Department was unable to close out Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funded projects efficiently for several years. A review was performed which identified over *twelve hundred* projects that were candidates for closeout. With increasing pressure from FHWA concerning the number of inactive projects and their dollar value, a *Project Closeout Team* was formed in October 2008, which brought together staff from Financial Management & Support, External Audit, Capital Programming and Scheduling, Capital projects, Federal Billing Accounts Receivable, and Budget Development & Control to create a totally new project closeout process with actions coordinated in sequence in order to maximize our results. In November 2009, FHWA and the Department entered into an agreement to reduce the federal inactive percentage from 16% to 5% by the end of FFY 2010. As a result of their team work and dedication, the Team hit the 5% goal and surpassed it.

In SFY 2012, FHWA had three additional mandates relating to Inactive projects. These high profile mandates forced the Team to work quickly and efficiently to meet these very difficult goals and put the Department in the best possible position. They have closed out over 1,500 projects since the initiative began back in 2008, releasing over \$65 million dollars for reprogramming on new projects and have reduced the inactive balance to 2% of our total federal program.

This team was nominated by Bureau Chief Robert Card. Congratulations to this group on their Recognition Award in the area of Teamwork.

Tim Boucher, Manu Chandra, Mohammed Kafi, and Jeff Knapp were involved in the reconstruction of intersections surrounding the new Gateway Community College in New Haven.

This was a two and a half million dollar project involving the modernization and reconstruction of nine key intersections located around the campus. The contract was originally scheduled for completion in April 2013. However, with the opening of the new Gateway campus scheduled in late August, the City required an accelerated completion date. As a result of the teamwork between these individuals, the Contractor, Designer, Utilities, City and other Department units this, aggressive goal was met in order to make the grand opening of the campus a success. The project involved the installation of computerized traffic signals, as well as ADA compliant ramps and sidewalks, traffic pavement markings, and signs. The new equipment will greatly improve the management of all modes of traffic in this pivotal downtown region and greatly enhance the surroundings of the new college campus. The extraordinary effort required many extended work days including weekends and nighttime operations to reduce the contract time and minimize additional costs inherent to acceleration. The team dedicated many resources and innovative solutions to quickly responding to numerous challenges that were overcome in this endeavor. Excellent communications were maintained by all of the members to ensure continuity in work coverage and expedited problem solving, to minimize delays and costs. The project is expected to be fully completed this year and will be under the original estimated budget. This team of individuals was nominated by Daniel Stafko, Supervising Engineer. Congratulations to this group for their Recognition Award for Teamwork.

TIM BOUCHER, MANU CHANDRA, MOHAMMAD KAFI, JEFF KNAPP

Julie Annino, Robert Foley, Greg Straka, Ron Tellier, Kevin Mahoney, and Kelly Zimmerman, worked together on an on-line internet bidding service for state and federally funded construction projects. This project called for implementation of a web Preconstruction module and electronic bidding, as well as the upgrade of two existing software modules. These individuals are the primary members of the implementation effort and were responsible for working as a team to make sure all of the individual components and workflows within their respective areas were seamlessly joined. They exhibited great professionalism in accomplishing this task within a tight timeframe while maintaining their normal workloads. This project has improved the department's project estimating capabilities, enhanced the workflow between engineering, finance and construction, and allowed the Department to move forward with electronic bidding which is a significant improvement for our customers. The Department went live on "Bid Express" on February 1, 2012. To date, we have received over 100 electronic bids. The contracting community is responding to this change and continues to provide positive feedback in an effort to move forward. This team was nominated by Jim Fallon, Division Chief and Chuck Roman, Chief of Fiscal/Administrative Services. Congratulations to this group on their Recognition Award in the area of Teamwork. **JULIE ANNINO, ROBERT FOLEY, GREG STRAKA, RON TELLIER, KEVIN MAHONEY, AND KELLY ZIMMERMAN**

Tom Burgess, Tony Estanislau, Tom Faenza, Bill Grant, Nick Ozkan, Neil Patel, and Scott Roberts.

This group was nominated by Gary Pitcock, Transportation Engineer 3:

“The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) was an economic stimulus act passed by Congress and signed into law by President Obama in February 2009. DOT identified "shovel-ready" projects and was responsible for implementing approximately 300 million dollars in Federal funding. The Department had approximately 93 municipal projects of which 50 or more were assigned to the Consultant Design/ Local Roads Unit. This unit was responsible for overseeing that all the projects' final plans, specifications and cost estimates were completed and acceptable, as well as, rights-of-way and permits being in place. They also oversaw and assisted the municipalities with bidding procedures and award of their contracts. All of this was accomplished in a very fast-track environment. A lot of personal sacrifices were made during this period, including working overtime and Saturdays to ensure that all the projects met their deadlines. These individuals were aware that they were just doing their jobs, but the purpose of Gary's nomination was to acknowledge his co-workers' hard work. Gary wishes to personally thank each of them for the help and guidance so readily and graciously provided to him since he had only been in the unit for two years at that time. Gary is pleased to have been part of that group. Congratulations to this group for your recognition award for Teamwork.

***TOM BURGESS, TONY ESTANISLAU, TOM FAENZA, *BILL GRANT, NICK OZKAN, NEIL PATEL, SCOTT ROBERTS**

Tina Franco, David Gosselin, Greg Sardinkas, and Arthur Von Plachecki.

The DOT and University of Connecticut have jointly established a Real-Time GPS Network for surveying applications. This new system will allow surveyors and engineers to determine accurate locations using the Global Positioning System in real time. That ability can take up to a day using conventional positioning methods. Unfortunately, the existing survey hardware is not compatible with that new system. Through the efforts of this team, Survey Operations is now in the testing phase of a viable and inexpensive solution to this problem. Greg Sardinkas is working on new Engineering Application initiatives related to real-time construction surveying and inspection. Through his dedicated efforts to assist in Survey Operations, and IT Analyst Tina Franco's initiative to tackle the problem, he and Tina were able to determine that an internet communications device could be paired with the older handheld survey data collectors. Arthur Von Plachecki and Dave Gosselin from District 2 have worked very diligently to get this device pairing to be successful, and are developing a workflow so that others can quickly and efficiently get up and running. Through all of these trials and tribulations, they have also relied on Greg's experiences with his own workflow issues and expertise, to work the bugs out of this new system. Survey Operations is still in a testing mode, but this is a very promising solution thanks to the team's efforts. It is estimated that the Department could save about \$50,000 in equipment upgrades this year alone. This team of individuals was nominated by Robert Baron, Principal Engineer. Please join me in congratulating this group on their Recognition Award for Teamwork. As I call each recipient's name, please come forward.

TINA FRANCO, DAVID GOSSELIN, GREG SARDINKAS, ARTHUR VON PLACHECKI

Bao Chuong and Matthew Gillis are assigned to the Bridge Design Unit. Both have been involved in providing a specific area of expertise with superior analytical skills.

Some of their work has focused on analysis and evaluation of sign supports and bridges, whose deterioration led to concern for public safety. Utilizing these skills, Bao and Matthew have contributed significantly to the Department's mission to provide a safe transportation system. They have been responsive, fast, effective and thorough, in analyzing and evaluating structures when a safety need arises, and in providing consideration for the needs of all their customers. They cooperate well with all involved to achieve needed results, offering mutually beneficial solutions. They produce responses of high value in a short amount of time. Often they write or utilize computer programs that perform tasks more efficiently and consistently, boosting their productivity. Bao and Matthew were nominated by John Hagert and Bryan Reed. Congratulations to Bao and Matthew on their recognition award for Teamwork. **BAO CHUONG, MATTHEW GILLIS**

James Pelletier is a Transportation Engineer 3 assigned to District 3 Construction. Due to Jim's extra efforts and perseverance, he has managed to coordinate a team of project staff and work with the contractor to maintain an aggressive schedule on a very large, complex construction project for the Moses-Wheeler Bridge. Jim has fostered a team approach inclusive of DOT staff, the contractor, and all other stakeholders with the goal of completing this multimillion dollar project within budget and ahead of schedule. Because of Jim's dedication to these lofty goals, a six to seven year project may be completed in less than 5 years, resulting in improved convenience to the traveling public and an enhanced highway system throughout the Milford/Stratford area. Timely completion will also alleviate potential safety concerns related to the current condition of the existing bridges. Jim was nominated for this award by Stephen DiGiovanna, Supervising Engineer in District 3, who says that Jim has represented the Department in a good light when it comes to teamwork and reaching goals set a high level. Please join me in congratulating Jim on his Recognition Award for Teamwork.

Michael Nooks, Betty Unikewicz, Robert Bissell, Michael Morrison are assigned to the DOT Security Division.

Although these individuals have distinctly different duties and responsibilities, they have demonstrated a superior professionalism in the performance of those duties. They provide outstanding customer service to DOT in-house customers as well as other federal and state agencies, emergency response agencies, vendors and contractors for the department as well as the general public. These individuals maintain and operate a layered security system 24/7, year round. They provide a physical security presence and effective investigative process, along with daily operations and maintenance of camera and security access control systems. This provides the department with the highest level of effective, efficient security that funding allows. These individuals are constantly assessing the current changing environment that we live and work in to stay ahead of the curve. They strive to overcome obstacles that present a threat to the Department's daily security operations that is only seen by a small handful of individuals. The consumers of the Security Division only see 10% of the total effort expended on a daily basis to protect the Department of Transportation and all of its Bureaus and facilities operated state wide. Congratulations to all the individuals assigned to the Security Division for their recognition award in the area of Safety.

MICHAEL NOOKS, BETTY UNIKEWICZ, ROBERT BISSELL, MICHAEL MORRISON

Neil Florio, General Supervisor in the North Haven Maintenance Garage is a team player. He helps out when a truck breaks down to make sure it gets back on the road safely and quickly. He gets into the thick of things and helps his employees when they are short-handed. He is well liked by all the employees he supervises. During the hot summer months, he has supplied all his workers with ice cold water several times a day and on his own, has contributed ice cream to show his appreciation for their work. He is always fair to everyone. He does a lot for the garage and for the state. When a complaint comes in, he always goes right out to check on it and follows up with the complainant. When Neil goes out to check his assigned roads and finds debris, he will always clear it. Neil is a supervisor that remembers that he started on a road crew, and always lends a hand when needed. He consistently works to the best of his ability to maintain both a safe working environment and the roadways in his area. Mr. Florio was nominated by Donna Knott, DOT Maintainer 2.

Since his nomination for this honor, Neil was attending a training class in which the instructor suddenly became lightheaded, and EMTs were called. Neil took charge until the EMTs arrived, and not only stayed after the EMTs left, but stayed until the instructor left. Deputy Commissioner Barry, who was unaware of Neil's pending recognition award, personally commended him for his prompt response. Mr. Florio was nominated by Donna Knott, DOT Maintainer 2 and Wanda Seldon, Assistant Human Resources Administrator. Please join us in publicly commending Neil for all of his efforts. Congratulations Neil on your Recognition Award in the area of Safety.

John Dudzinski is a Transportation Engineer 3 in the Highway Design Division. John was assigned as Project Engineer in facilitating the design and construction of projects associated with the New Haven Harbor Crossing Corridor Improvement Program. This program involves the reconstruction of over 7 miles of I-95 from the City of New Haven to the Town of Branford. Included in this project is the replacement of the Pearl Harbor Memorial Bridge, also known as the "Q Bridge". The program is the most costly in the department's history at approximately two billion dollars. John coordinates extensively with the consultant engineering firms responsible for the project designs and the District 3A office to resolve a multitude of construction issues from unforeseen field conditions to proposed contractor changes. He has become proficient in the use of the construction management software and assists others in its use. He has also been of great assistance to his supervisors in the administration of contracts with consulting engineers. John has become very skilled in developing proposals, negotiating consultant fees, preparing schedules and maintaining financial data. He also received a Certificate of Appreciation from District 3A for his assistance on this project. Mr. Dudzinski was nominated by Richard Armstrong, Principal Engineer and Brian Natwick, Supervising Engineer. Please join me in congratulating John on his recognition award for performance.

James Therrien is a Transportation Engineer 1 in District 3 Construction and has an active role in the Moses Wheeler Bridge project. Although, James has been employed with DOT for a little over 2 years, he has shown exceptional ability and is a very knowledgeable engineer. James has repeatedly taken the lead on tasks requested of him. Recently the project was faced with a changed condition that included time and financial impacts in excess of two and a half million dollars. James' quick thinking and use of technology led to a change in the design. He also took the lead on the cost development for this issue, which resulted in a 1.5 million dollar savings. His work on this task was completed so efficiently that no time delays resulted. James was nominated by Jim Pelletier, who stated in his nomination, "James is a

pleasure to work with and is one of the best engineers I've encountered in my 24 years with the Department." Congratulations to James for his Recognition award in the Area of Performance.

Edgardo Block is a Supervising Engineer in the Pavement Management Unit. Ed is the "go to" guy for pavement information. He currently is Chairman of the Transportation Research Board's Pavement Management Systems Committee and also serves on the Weigh in Motion Subcommittee. Perhaps Ed's most significant achievement is the implementation of the Department's Pavement Management System. Ed initiated efforts to procure sophisticated software to effectuate cost saving measures in funds allocated for pavement management. The result of Ed's efforts in procurement and implementation of this software are expected to result in a significant amount of savings for the Department. Ed is a great asset to the department and his expertise is highly valued by his colleagues. Please congratulate Ed on his Recognition Award for Performance.

Randi Giglio is a Transportation Engineer 2, in District 4 Construction. Over the last few years, District 4 had oversight responsibility for 44 Stimulus Package Projects, otherwise known as ARRA. Randi was assigned the position of ARRA Coordinator. On a monthly basis, she was required to process and chase down the required paperwork, as well as record all the necessary information that each contractor, consultant engineering firm, and municipality had to file as part of the Federal requirements to participate in the ARRA program. The deadlines for completion were usually a 3 to 5 day turnaround, which Randi consistently met. She continues to perform her duties with an extremely high level of accuracy and in an expeditious manner, due to her innate ability to work well with others, and her motivation to complete each task. Randi was nominated by Thomas Weldon, a Transportation Engineer 3 from District 4. Congratulations to Randi for her recognition award in the area of performance.

Joseph Delorimiere, Qualified Craft Worker, is assigned to the Portland Machine Shop. Joe was nominated by former Garage Supervisor Peter Mrowka, who is now retired. In his nomination, Peter stated that, "Joe has an excellent attendance and work record. He has always been an employee who went beyond his job requirements to do an excellent job whenever asked. Joe has also been the union's safety steward for many years. Whenever employees approached Joe with a safety concern, he worked with his supervisor to address the concern together. He is an employee that can always be counted on to be there and who goes the extra mile to get the job done. Joe is truly a dedicated and loyal employee." Congratulations Joe on your Recognition Award in the area of performance.

Santos Cancel is a DOT Maintainer 2 assigned to the Maintenance Garage in Farmington. The tasks assigned to highway maintenance workers are sometimes very difficult. Despite the challenges, Santos serves as a role model for all of our new employees. He has been with the Department since 2005 and during this time, he has demonstrated an outstanding work ethic, and has been most cooperative and respectful to his co-workers and supervisors. He is always ready to give a helping hand. He takes pride in his work and safety is a primary concern. Santos readily takes the initiative to ensure that the garage is in compliance for inspection. He is an excellent and organized employee. Mr. Cancel was nominated by George Santos, Crew Leader and Jack Tine, General Supervisor. Congratulations Santos on your recognition award for Performance.

Peter Terrio is a Qualified Craft Worker in the Old Saybrook Repair Garage. Pete is a very hard worker and has always delivered A-plus work. He never complains about a job he has been given and is willing to take on new tasks. Pete has influenced other workers by exhibiting a strong work ethic. He is a team player and treats fellow employees with utmost respect and courtesy. He is always there to lend a hand or pass on useful information to someone that might not be familiar with a piece of equipment. He is

one of the best examples of a model employee. Pete was nominated by Craig Fargo, Transportation Garage Supervisor, Old Saybrook Repair Garage. Congratulations Pete on your recognition award for job performance.

*****Dan Smachetti** serves as Director for the Division of Property and Facilities Services. Dan has been the key to the success of the redevelopment and reinvigoration of the Department's 23 Service Plazas. His sound judgment, reasonable approach, enthusiasm and attention to detail, as well as many hours of work outside the normal work day, were instrumental in the implementation of the highly complex Service Plaza improvements project and in ensuring that the department obtained the best possible deal. He also continues to make time for any other needs the agency has without missing a beat. Dan was nominated by Legal Director, Denise Rodosevich and Bureau Chief Bob Card, who also stated "Dan is truly a role model in his positive attitude, approach to his job and dedication in helping us all succeed. Working with him is a privilege. We could not ask for a better colleague." Congratulations to Dan for his recognition award for job performance.

The next award recipient was nominated by Janice Snyder, Purchasing & Stores Assistant Director:

JEFFREY RANCIATO is a Material Storage Supervisor 2 assigned to the Storeroom in Waterbury. Materials Management has experienced a severe reduction in workforce over the past 2 years. Jeff has been asked and responded to working in several different Stockrooms without any complaints or issues. Jeff was assigned to East Haven Stores and within a 2 year period he was temporarily reassigned to Waterbury, Old Saybrook and Higganum to cover staffing deficiencies and keep operations running, which he did with minimal supervision. He quietly and competently steps into a different Stockroom and effectively manages the operations and the staff. Jeff also responds to voluntary overtime in a moment's notice. His "can-do" attitude and work ethic consistently goes beyond expectations. He maintains a great sense of humor, focuses on the tasks at hand, and has a cooperative attitude wherever he is assigned. Being part of Jeff's Team means success and produces a hard day's work. Congratulations to Jeff Ranciato for his Recognition Award for job performance.

CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN, also nominated by Janice Snyder, is a Transportation Material Storage Supervisor, who consistently takes a leadership role wherever he is assigned. Chris was assigned to the storeroom in East Haven when it was decided to "temporarily close it" for the winter of 2011/12. In November 2011 Chris was charged with closing East Haven, redistributing the workload to Milford, running the Milford Stores and carrying the workload from East Haven. It was a heavy volume of work with little to no time to plan but Chris organized the daily operations, ordered winter maintenance materials and kept everything running smoothly. Chris also worked to re-open East Haven Stores in May 2012 with no staff, while he was still running Milford. Chris has since trained two new employees, continues to monitor their progress daily and still effectively manages other storerooms. Chris' dependability, loyalty and dedication to the Department consistently rises above others. His ability to make decisions, effectively plan and oversee the work of multiple Stores facilities defines teamwork, outstanding performance and leadership at its best. Congratulations to you, Chris, on your award in the area of job performance.

Pamela Flanagan, an Accountant in the Office of Finance, is the Purchasing Card or (P-Card) Coordinator for our agency and assisted in the implementation of the program in 2007. There are approximately 150 employees that have P-Cards that Pam oversees. The cards are mostly utilized to purchase parts for equipment repair, maintenance, supplies for building maintenance, stockrooms AND to purchase meals

for crews working during winter storms. She is the liaison between the Cardholders, the DAS Administrator and the Bank. Due to Pam's efficient performance, the yearly audit reports of the P-Card Program by the State auditors have been consistently good. In addition, her customer service to the P-Card holders is very impressive. She quickly responds to questions from the Cardholders and helps resolve any problems. She interacts well with management and staff, answering questions and providing reports or information as requested. Pam is a dedicated and hardworking professional. Pam was nominated by Mario Torcia, Supervising Accountant and her former supervisor. Please join me in congratulating Pam Flanagan on her recognition award for performance.

Robert Nogas is a Maintenance Crew Leader at Brainard Airport. Bob is a very hardworking professional. His knowledge in the Maintenance field has always been useful and helpful to staff. Brainard Airport was without secretarial support for a while and he took over the clerical functions of the office in addition to his Crew Leader responsibilities. When new staff is hired, he trains them with patience. He is very helpful to both customers and co-workers and is always concerned about the safety of the airport and staff. Bob has handled himself professionally and has been a wonderful asset to the airport. He deserves to be recognized for his excellent work performance and extensive knowledge. Bob was nominated by Tiffany Velasco, Office Assistant at Brainard Airport. Please congratulate Bob on his recognition award for performance.

William Riggott, Airport Crash/Rescue Firefighter, transferred to DOT on June 15th of this year. On the afternoon of August ninth, Bill was participating in a firefighter training session with other Bradley Airport firefighters familiarizing himself with the hazards and layout of the airport terminal and its concourses. While walking through Concourse E, he heard a woman scream. He saw a small child exhibiting signs of choking. Without waiting for guidance, Bill raced to the aid of the child. He quickly performed the Heimlich maneuver and after several attempts, her airway was cleared. After crying briefly, the child was back to her normal, active self. She was further evaluated, but had no additional injuries. The child's parents were very grateful that Bill was there in their time of need and thanked him for saving their daughter from choking. Bob's fast recognition and swift intervention potentially saved this child's life. Congratulations to Firefighter Bill Riggott for recognition in the area of performance.

Jon Andrews is a Transportation Supervising Engineer in the Illumination Design Unit. Jon has a history of dealing directly with the public in a professional, courteous, and timely manner. Because of his level-headed personality, he has a calming influence with both the public and his peers approaching any issue or during any crisis. He has always been a team player and selfless individual. He is always the first person to recognize and praise his worker's accomplishments and achievements, and tries to improve an individual's value by often encouraging them to get additional training or apply for a promotion. He treats all workers with equal respect and courtesy, regardless of their title. He always makes time for a coworker. Jon is a valuable representative for the unit, being the point man working with other units for developing lighting legislation and design standards for consultants. He originally supervised the Illumination Design Unit with three workers but he has "worn two hats" since the unit merged with Facilities Design, thereby more than doubling his workload. Through his efficient, tireless work ethic, Jon leads by example. Jon was nominated by fellow engineers Frank Coccozza, Jorge Kuljis, and Michael Witik. Congratulations to Jon on his recognition award for performance.

Ronald Boremski is a Rail Officer assigned to Rail Operations for the Bureau of Public Transportation. Ron was assigned a very complex and long-standing drainage encroachment problem that caused damage to track bed and rail ties within the New Haven line operating area in Stamford. This drainage problem, left uncorrected, would eventually erode newly installed concrete railroad ties. Ron's efforts included partnering with private property owners, the City of Stamford and Metro-North Railroad. He also coordinated the engineering review process between private and DOT engineering units, the City and Railroad to reach an agreement for the installation of a drainage system across two private properties, the State's Railroad property and city-owned property. The solution to this encroachment problem would not have been possible without Ron's ability and coordination efforts to obtain the rather large financial commitment from the responsible party. Ron was nominated by Julie Thomas, Supervising Property Agent. Congratulations to Ron for his Recognition Award in the area of Performance.

The next award has very special meaning.....This award is for fallen co-worker, Daniel Dinardi, a former Maintenance General Supervisor in District 4. The following is taken directly from the nomination form sent in by his brother Rick Dinardi, a DOT Crew Leader: "Dan took pride in being in one of the most populated and busy areas of the state. In this time of economic constraint, it was a constant fight to stay on top of the daily jobs and special projects that went on in his section. I know for a fact that Dan was proud of the men and women that worked with, and around him. He was great at managing his assets and deficiencies to get the most done in a timely and safest manner possible. Few matched his level of attention to detail. He always wanted his workers to go that extra mile to make Waterbury and the surrounding towns look good. He was always willing to work with other agencies and garages in regards to emergencies or day to day dealings. As his older brother and co-worker, I have immeasurable pride in the example my brother was for both new and established workers. He was a true leader and expected the most out of people in every endeavor. I think one of his most important messages was his constant concern for safety and following of the policies that the Department has in place. He wanted everyone to make it home to their family every night." Accepting Dan's posthumous performance award is his brother Rick Dinardi.

Larae Spina, a Secretary 2, works in a very busy and demanding office in District 3 Construction. She is currently the secretary for the Assistant District Engineer, two Supervising Engineers, and nine Project engineers. The daily demands of Larae's position takes a hard-working, organized, knowledgeable and confident professional. Larae Spina is that person. Because of her hard work, District 3 is accomplishing the same volume of work with fewer people. Larae performs all her duties with speed and accuracy and consistently exceeds performance expectations. Her outstanding work ethic and cheerful and pleasant disposition, have earned her the trust and confidence of her co-workers. Larae aided the Assistant District Engineer in reorganizing the office, resulting in improved efficiency. Without employees like Larae, the department would have a much harder time succeeding in its mission. Larae was nominated by Robert Obey, Assistant District Engineer. Congratulations to Larae for her recognition award for job performance

Kathryn Barnabei, Transportation Planner 2, is assigned to the Highway Safety Office in the program of impaired driving. When she came to this position she recognized the need to improve the way the impaired driving data was being collected and the need for a better mechanism for the unit's law enforcement partners to report their activity and submit their reimbursement claims. Over the last several years Kathryn has worked diligently to standardize the Highway Safety grant application and then took this effort to the next level by making it available on-line so that all Highway Safety partners will be using the same form. The reimbursement package has also been revised to make collecting and reporting data much easier, faster and with a significant reduction in inaccurate data being reported. This innovative process has replaced the very cumbersome and labor intensive processing of hard copy applications. It created savings by reducing reproduction and mailing expenses for the Department, improved the efficiency of making applications available to our partners and providing a higher level of customer service to users of the Highway Safety program. While Kathryn did not do all of this on her own, it was her vision that recognized an inferior process, her ingenuity to come up with the needed changes and her leadership brought all of it together. Congratulations Kathryn on your recognition award for job performance.

Kevin Blasi, Transportation Engineer 3, has been developing contract plans and specifications for preservation and restoration of numerous Merritt Parkway bridges. Kevin has embraced the historic preservation philosophy and has worked tirelessly to develop practical ways of implementing the goals of this philosophy in conjunction with FHWA requirements. His work will ultimately set the standard for historic bridge preservation in Connecticut – for the Merritt Parkway as well as for other historic bridges. Kevin has been involved with evaluating the constructed work and determining how to improve on the successes and failures. Some of the technology that is being researched will also help develop new standard practices for preserving non-historic bridges as well. Kevin is also pursuing the maintenance aspects of preservation to improve the way the Department maintains its inventory of historic bridges. Kevin was nominated by Jon Hagert and Bryan Reed, Supervising Engineers. Congratulations to Kevin on his recognition award for performance.

Michael Cormier is a Transportation Engineer 2 with approximately 23 years of service at DOT. He was instrumental in assisting in the Bid Express project. In conjunction with AASHTO, the department implemented this complex program within six months. This didn't happen, however, without several hard working and ambitious employees of the Contract Development Unit who worked together as one team to accomplish this enormous task. In addition to his normal engineering duties, he also conducted significant testing and demonstrations for the development of this program. He played a major role as a system leader. He was fundamental in the development of the final product that is in use today. He shows what leadership and teamwork are all about. Mike was nominated by Glenn Buslewicz, TE 3. Congratulations to Mike on his Recognition Award for Performance.

Charles Clarke is a Transportation Engineer 2 in the Office of Rails.

Charles is inundated with project work and other tasks as part of his day to day grind. Yet when some would say they don't have the time or energy, Charles finds a way to be receptive to everyone's needs. He offers thoughts on how to accomplish a task a person has been assigned, or lends an ear to listen. Always thoughtful and considerate, he displays a certain aura that attracts his participation. When people talk about that certain person who is the "glue" that keeps it together, Charles is that person. Not only is he the "go to" guy in the office, he is also the first to share his life experiences as he mentors

the younger men and women who have been assigned to our office as part of various programs. These participants are fortunate to get the opportunity to be mentored by Charles. Charles was nominated by James Fox, Principal Engineer. Please join me in congratulating Charles on his recognition award for Performance.

Stephen Lukasiewski, Timothy McGuane, Stephen Noble, Michael Ryan, Robert Seitz, and Christopher Sparks are assigned to the Office of Information Systems.

While there are many talented and dedicated OIS employees, the Graphic Systems support team has time after time exhibited exemplary performance. Their support is always provided in an efficient and professional manner. In the often "need it right away" critical application challenges thrown at them, they collaborate and brainstorm, exchanging ideas and arriving at the best solution to an issue, often improving the outcome from what was originally requested. Breaks, lunch or the "end of the day", it doesn't matter if there is an important problem to solve. They seem to thrive on the harder puzzles and feel genuinely distressed if they can't quickly figure something out. Yet they always find a way to get an operation up and running even if it's with a patch until the original issue is fixed. They multitask and juggle priorities as other work arrives always keeping the end user in mind. The good natured but professional office operation is impressive to see. Somehow they keep this pace up day after day. In the past, their support of the AASHTO national conference was legendary. They were a key part of a team that supported a large staff, and hundreds of delegates, in an offsite location. At one point, some of them worked past 4 AM to solve technical issues. They ensured a successful conference that received national accolades. Their motto which has been played out numerous times: "Tell us what you need and we'll make it happen." This team delivers, and clearly and repeatedly goes the extra mile to provide excellent service to their customers. Congratulations to this unit for their Recognition Award in the area of Customer Service.

Stephen Lukasiewski, Timothy McGuane, Stephen Noble, Michael Ryan, Robert Seitz, and Christopher Sparks

Raymond Boucher is a Property Agent in the Office of Rights of Way. Ray's responsibilities range from the determination of just compensation for real property rights being sought by the Department for major transportation initiatives, to acting as the state's expert witness in condemnation cases. These interactions occur with private property owners, attorneys and others, with the goal being to secure agreements for purchase. Ray's "devout" work ethic, considerable knowledge and patience, allow him to perform these tasks effectively and efficiently. He is detailed-oriented, well organized, and demonstrates effective time management skills. He efficiently plans out each work day, setting the highest standards of professionalism for the unit. The Rights of Way acquisition process is a pre-construction activity that is driven by strict scheduling requirements. Ray can be relied upon to meet these schedules while consistently striking the right balance between the needs of the Department's internal and external customers. He is a trusted problem solver and an innovative and independent thinker. He possesses superior communication skills and he has received countless accolades from the general public and his peers. He is an ardent professional who is a credit to the Department of Transportation and the citizens of the State of Connecticut. Ray was nominated by Michele London, Supervising Property Agent..... (As a Project Coordinator in the Office of Rights of Way, I have the opportunity to work closely with Ray on a regular basis, and I echo Michele's sentiments. Ray is a most deserving recipient.) Congratulations to Ray for his Customer Service Recognition Award.

Craig Bordiere, Supervising Rail Officer in the Bureau of Public Transportation, has been with DOT for over 16 years. Part of Craig's duties include the responsibility of the oversight and management of all 37 railroad stations on the Shore Line East and New Haven Lines. Interaction with elected officials in the numerous municipalities and the different property management companies, not to mention customers, is a demanding task. Craig conducts himself with a consistent level of professionalism and detailed attention to matters that are both time and politically-sensitive. His ability to juggle his time between these critical issues and the oversight of activity on the Metro North New Haven Line is remarkable. Craig never fails to consistently deliver fair and equitable results in the day to day management of these very complicated issues. His resourcefulness, thought process and knowledge of the policies and agreements and other unique nuances with each individual station is a testament to Craig's dedication and work ethic which he brings into work every day. Craig conducts his daily duties with great passion to bring issues to resolution which most times require an articulate and delicate hand in accomplishing. In addition to the 37 stations, Craig also has the responsibility for the oversight of all maintenance of way work performed by Metro North forces on the New Haven Line which is a difficult task. Craig is the "go to" person in the Office of Rail in New Haven when it comes to delivering resolution to critical issues that arise. Whether it be with Metro North Railroad, a local municipality, vendor or a customer the result will be the same, EXCELLENCE. Craig was nominated by James Fox, Principal Engineer, Office of Rail. Please join me in congratulating Craig on his Recognition Award in the category of Customer Service.

John Miller, Associate Administrative Fiscal Officer in Accounts Payable, has many positive attributes that he brings to his job. Agency employees, vendors and some of the poorest people of this country have benefited from John's desire to be helpful, yet he remains a very humble individual. John travels one week a year to some of America's poorest towns to help rebuild hope by helping them rebuild their homes. He is a team leader with the group of local volunteers that travel with him. He does this on his own time and at his own expense. His leadership here at DOT is plain to see. When it comes to performance, John is right there as well. He can grind out the work and not break a sweat. He helps others when they feel overloaded. He is a very high caliber employee who can deliver solid service even when pressed himself. He doesn't avoid extra work. He just pitches in and helps to motivate all employees by his example. John Miller was nominated by Joe Leal, Fiscal Administrative Assistant. Congratulations to you John on your Recognition Award for Customer Service.

Marie Rodrigues is a Human Resource Associate. Marie has been a dedicated employee for 25 years. Her current responsibilities include retirement counseling, benefits management for military leave, and death benefits. All of these are very personal situations. Marie handles the inquiries and application process with the utmost dignity, respect and professionalism on behalf of her co-workers. DOT is one of the few state agencies that continue to offer this personalized counseling and application service. Marie is an expert in these areas and is adept at advising the employee to maximize access to benefits. From a customer service perspective, Marie has touched the lives of our employees in a very personal way. She has gone to employee's homes, met with and advised their spouses or beneficiaries and has met with employees and their family members in the hospital to assist them in attaining benefits in terminal illness situations. Her compassion is unmatched and she deserves to be recognized for her superior customer service. Marie Rodrigues was nominated by Vicki Arpin, Agency Human Resource Administrator. Congratulations to you, Marie, on your recognition award for Customer Service.
