

## Celebrating Our Administrative Professionals



On April 24, employees came together to honor and recognize the contributions of the agency's Administrative Assistants, Secretaries, Business Managers, and all administrative staff who are vital to daily operations. Hundreds from across the agency joined together in person and virtually to recognize and celebrate our Administrative Professionals — reaffirming our commitment to honor these individuals not just on National Administrative Professionals Day, but every day.

The Administrative Professionals Excellence Awards recognize individuals who excel in their commitment to their duties and colleagues, the agency's mission, and our customers. See the [PA News website](#) for more on each of this year's recipients.

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## PAPD Jade Society Celebrates Cultural Heritage

In the heart of New York City's Chinatown, the Port Authority Police Department Asian Jade Society recently hosted its 4th annual Asian American Heritage Month dinner, a vibrant celebration of culture, tradition, and community spirit. The event was a testament to the department's commitment to embracing diversity and fostering inclusivity within its ranks and beyond.

PAPD Pipes and Drums set the tone with a stirring performance, followed by a presentation from the Honor Guard and a heartfelt rendition of the national anthem by Officer **Michelle Nicholas**.

Central to the festivities was the mesmerizing Chinese lion dance, a centuries-old tradition believed to bring blessings and ward off malevolent forces. As the rhythmic beat of the drums filled the air, guests were transported into a world of ancient rituals and cultural symbolism, before they were treated to culinary delights, as a sumptuous 10-course Chinese dinner awaited attendees.

Officer **Nicholas Proscia** provided a soundtrack of music samples that kept the energy high. Meanwhile, raffles and door prizes added an element of excitement, with lucky winners walking away with coveted rewards.

The diversity of the guest list mirrored the department's inclusive ethos, with attendees hailing from various affinity groups, civilian employees, and outside guests

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## PA-AAA Shares Eid Traditions With Colleagues

In an effort to celebrate diversity and foster greater cultural understanding within the agency, the Port Authority Asian American Association (PA-AAA) recently hosted an Eid-al-Fitr 'Snack & Learn' event on April 29.

In addition to delicious snacks, one of the highlights included a Mehndi artist, who was on hand to apply beautiful designs on the attendees, adding a festive touch to the gathering. Participants enjoyed an immersive cultural experience while enjoying baklava and tea.

Furthermore, PA employees hosted engaging presentations on Eid-al-Fitr traditions, sharing their personal experiences and traditions associated with the festival. The Engineering Department, led by Chief Engineer **Rizwan Baig**, also helped to support the event.

By coming together to celebrate our differences and share our traditions, we reaffirmed our commitment to fostering a culture of collaboration within our organization.



# Celebrating Our Administrative Professionals

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## Customer Experience Award



**Dennis Brewer,**  
Paralegal  
Specialist, Law  
Department



**Serina  
Evans,** HR  
Representative,  
Human  
Resources  
Department

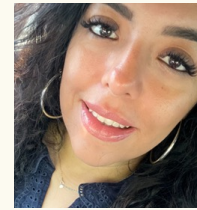
## Professionalism Award



**Nivia DaSilva,**  
Staff Financial  
Analyst,  
Engineering (left)

**Domel Andrews,**  
Clerk, PATH  
(not pictured)

## Agency Expertise Award



**Sandy Pupo,**  
Senior Business  
Manager,  
Intergovernmental  
Affairs/Government  
& Community  
Relations (GOCOR)



**Kimberly  
Beard-Wilcher,**  
Executive  
Business  
Manager, Office  
of Inspector  
General

## NYU Students Pitch PABT Ideas to TB&T

Staff in the Tunnels, Bridges & Bus Terminals (TB&T) Department have been working with a team of graduate urban planning students from NYU's Wagner School of Public Service to study additional locations for temporary bus service during the construction of the Midtown Bus Terminal Replacement project.

The students have been working on their Capstone Project (i.e., their final project before graduation) since Fall 2023. They have explored literature on bus operations, compiled case studies, analyzed available data, and conducted field visits to devise a set of recommendations. On April 29, the Capstone Team presented highlights of their report to PA employees, including recommendations for three potential rerouting scenarios. The work that the students have done will inform TB&T collaborations with bus carriers and stakeholder agencies to address the need for alternative bus terminal sites during construction.



Robert Joseph (center) with the NYU students.

## Going Above and Beyond



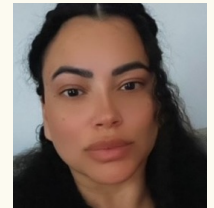
**Mario Lopez-  
Sanchez,**  
Staff Business  
Manager,  
Aviation  
Department



**Marissa  
Muentes,**  
Principal  
Timekeeper,  
Port Department



**Felicia Rodwell,**  
Executive  
Business  
Manager, World  
Trade Center  
Department



**Solange Osorio,**  
Senior Executive  
Secretary, Major  
Capital Projects

## Making A Difference Award

## PAPD Jade Society Celebrates Cultural Heritage

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representing a kaleidoscope of cultural backgrounds and ethnicities.

Reflecting on the significance of the event, Sergeant **Se Chao**, president of the Asian Jade Society, expressed the organization's mission to share an authentic Asian experience with colleagues and the broader community.

"Many members of our organization grew up in and around this culturally vibrant community and it is our hope that we can share an authentic experience with the diverse agency that we work for," said Chao.

The night culminated in a special tribute to Superintendent **Edward Cetnar**, honoring his exemplary leadership and dedication to diversity within the department. Chief **Geraldo Silva** accepted the honor on behalf of Superintendent Cetnar.

It was evident that this 4th annual celebration succeeded in its mission — to celebrate diversity, honor tradition, and forge bonds of camaraderie that transcend cultural boundaries. In the bustling streets of Chinatown, amidst the aroma of authentic cuisine, a sense of unity and pride filled the air, serving as a reminder of the Port Authority's rich diversity.



## Port Cleans Up for Earth Month

The Port Department recently hosted its annual Port Cleanup Day in recognition of Earth Month. Volunteers from New Jersey Marine Terminals, New York Marine Terminals, and 4 World Trade Center participated in litter cleanup events. Port tenants were also encouraged to hold cleanup events within their leaseholds. Participating tenants included: DiPinto, Harbor Freight, Maher, Vanguard, Red Hook Container Terminal (NY), and Toyota.



## RETIREMENTS

After over 36 years of service with the Port Authority, **Tim Furlong**, Tunnel and Bridge Agent, is ready to leave the game. Colleagues joined together on May 17 at the Goethals Bridge Meeting Room to celebrate his career. [See flyer here.](#)

After a 32-year career with the Port Authority, **John Ten Berge**, Chief Maintenance Supervisor at New Jersey Marine Terminal, is heading to retirement far, far away. A celebration will be held on June 13 at 260 Kellogg St, Auxiliary Room at 11 a.m. \$55 p.p. RSVP by June 6 to [Marissa Muentes](#) or [Franny Quintana](#). [See flyer.](#)



Tim Furlong (left) and John Ten Berge (right)

## STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

### Robert Kumapley

**Robert Kumapley**, Chief of Enterprise Asset Management in the Engineering Department, recently received a Service Award from Rutgers University for his outstanding contributions to the Rutgers University Civil and Environmental Engineering Industry Advisory Board (RU CEE IAB).

Robert's dedication and leadership have made a significant impact on the CEE program at Rutgers University, and we congratulate him on this well-deserved recognition. Robert joined the agency in 2003 and has more than 35 years of experience in civil engineering design, construction, and asset management.



## WTC Memorial Scholarship Applications Due June 30

In the memory of the Port Authority employees who passed in the September 11, 2001 and February 26, 1993 attacks, the WTC Memorial Golf Club Committee is awarding annual scholarships of \$15,500 for 4-year undergraduate degrees and \$8,000 for 2-year associate degrees in honor of their selfless actions. To be eligible, applicants must be a child of an active or retired Port Authority employee; a graduating senior with a desire to

further their education, and must be accepted into an accredited 2- or 4-year college, university, or vocational school. Applications are due June 30.

For any questions, please reach out to **Carissa Roloson** at [croloson@panynj.gov](mailto:croloson@panynj.gov) or 201-885-8172. Be sure to [check out the scholarship website](#) for additional details on eligibility and requirements, including information on how to apply.

## CALENDAR

### [PA-AAA: HeART Wellness and Heart of Dinner Event](#)

*Tuesday, May 21 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at 4 WTC, 23 Floor Conference Room 2.* The Port Authority Asian American Association and PA PRIDE will host an art therapy creative exercise with Suzii Cha. After the art therapy exercise will be the Heart of Dinner support program — decorating bags and writing inspirational notes for Asian elders who suffer from food insecurity, loneliness, and isolation in underinvested communities. Contact [paaaa@panynj.gov](mailto:paaaa@panynj.gov) to learn more.

### [PAWC-WIT: Wellness Program Lunch and Learn](#)

*Wednesday, May 22 from 1 to 2 p.m.* The Port Authority Women's Council — Women in Technology chapter will host an Employee Wellness Program Lunch & Learn, which will highlight the Rally platform. The Rally experts will review how to enroll in the program, explain the Rally goals & rewards and discuss ways you can include Rally in your daily wellness routine. [RSVP](#) to learn more.

### [NBE: 'Grown Woman Talk' Virtual Book Club](#)

*Thursdays, May 16 through October 3, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Teams.* The Network of Black Employees (NBE) invites employees to attend its 'Grown Woman Talk' virtual book club in honor of Women's Health Month. Grown Woman Talk (Your Guide to Getting and Staying Healthy) by Dr. Sharon Malone is available on Amazon. Open to all, [registration is required to participate](#). For more information contact [NBE@panynj.gov](mailto:NBE@panynj.gov) or **Audrey Dagnachew** at 646-660-5368. Book Club Meetings will not be recorded.

