

## EWR Hosts Plane Pull Fundraiser in Honor of Former Employee

Do you think you and your friends could pull a plane?

On October 5, Newark Liberty International Airport together with United Airlines hosted a charity plane pull in honor of **Yusimil Un**, a Port Authority employee who [passed away earlier this year](#).

Teams of up to 20 competed to see who could pull a United Boeing 737 across the tarmac the fastest, with proceeds benefitting Special Olympics New Jersey. The plane pull had been on a five-year hiatus before returning this year, delighting participants, friends and family, and the over 20,000 athletes of Special Olympics New Jersey. In addition to the plane pull, attendees also enjoyed food, refreshments, a petting zoo, emergency equipment displays, and much more.



## PAPD Lieutenant Receives Prestigious Honor

Congratulations to PAPD Bi-State Coalition member, Lieutenant **Aaron Woody**, who was recently honored at the Grand Council of Guardians' 50th Anniversary Scholarship and Awards Gala.

This prestigious recognition, which was presented on October 4, is a testament to Lt. Woody's unwavering dedication, exceptional leadership, and unrelenting commitment to excellence. With 31 years of law enforcement experience, Lt. Woody's contributions to the coalition and the PAPD have been invaluable. Please join together in congratulating him on this well-deserved achievement.

Founded in 1974, the Grand Council of Guardians Inc. is an umbrella organization for African Americans in the field of law enforcement throughout New York State.



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## Coming Soon: MyPA, the New Employee Portal



World-class employees deserve world-class employee communications. That's why this November, the agency will be [launching MyPA](#), a brand-new employee portal to replace eNet.

The new portal will provide easier, more seamless access to important information, including:

- An at-a-glance dashboard with pay information, benefits, and a paid time off tracker
- The latest news and events from around the agency
- Job opportunities, development programs and training
- Improved search and contact directories, and more...
- All in a mobile-friendly site you can access from anywhere, at any time – including on PA devices, your personal computer or mobile phone, and at facility kiosks.

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## Coming Soon: MyPA, the New Employee Portal

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The name MyPA was chosen by employees and the site has been built for employees, developed with the input of a wide variety of employees from across the agency, and representing the first major overhaul of our employee website in many years.

You'll be hearing much more about MyPA as we approach launch. Stay tuned for additional broadcasts, webinars, demos and facility visits for your chance to preview MyPA.

## Audit Staff Join Together to Support T2T Foundation

A group of Audit Department staff recently joined together, braving the elements for a successful run/walk in the annual Tunnels to Towers 5K on September 24.

In addition, thanks to the efforts of countless current, prior, and future employees and their friends, who participated, donated, and cheered on Audit staff in this year's program, \$2,200 was raised to help support first responders and service members who made, and continue to make, extraordinary sacrifices in the line of duty.

The Audit Department looks forward to doing it again next year!



## IN MEMORIAM

His friends and colleagues at the Port Authority and PATH were saddened to learn that **Michael J. DeGiovanni**,



Michael J. DeGiovanni

a dedicated employee who was less than a month away from his 13th work anniversary, passed away on October 13th.

Michael joined the agency on November 7, 2011, as an Assistant Signal Repairman in the PATH Power, Signals & Communications Division, a position he held until the time of his passing.

Michael made great first impressions on those he worked with and will be deeply missed. He brought humor and laughter to break times and when it was time to work, always made safety his top focus – looking out for his colleagues on the PATH right of way. Michael will also be remembered for being a devoted family man who always spoke with pride and love for his son Joseph, as exemplified by their bond as avid fans of the New York Jets.

In addition to his son, Michael is survived by his wife Sylvia.

To learn more about Michael please view his [full obituary](#).

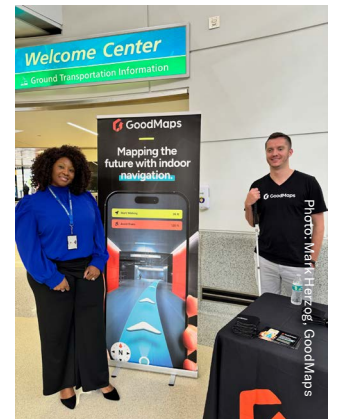
We ask that you please keep the memory of Michael in your thoughts and keep his family, friends, and colleagues in your hearts during this difficult time.

## PA TTL Pilots Indoor Wayfinding Tech at EWR Terminal B

The Port Authority's Transit Tech Lab is piloting new, inclusive, indoor navigation and wayfinding technology at Newark Liberty International Airport's Terminal B.

Technology company [GoodMaps](#) is making strides in indoor wayfinding, piloting its cutting-edge app at the EWR Terminal B pre-security area on behalf of the [PA Transit Tech Lab](#). This initiative highlights the critical need for seamless navigation in indoor spaces, benefiting passengers with improved accessibility and ease of movement.

The project is spearheaded by **La'Tisha Smith**, Project Coordinator, Customer Experience in the Aviation Department and **Leanette Capella**, Supervisor of Terminal Services and Contract Management at EWR Terminal B.



La'Tisha Smith from Aviation and Kevin Kline from GoodMaps.

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## PAPD Welcomes First Female Captain of Hispanic Heritage

*Originally published in [Now Arriving](#), written by Lenis Valens.*

For two decades, a stuffed puppy has followed **Priscilla Sanchez** everywhere she's gone. She's had it since she was 10, a much beloved gift from her brother just prior to his deployment to Iraq: "I held onto that puppy every night."

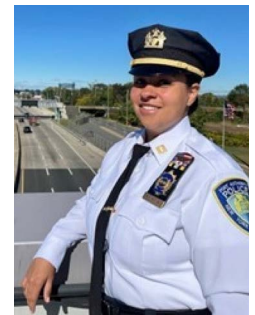
It was a source of comfort during his absence, and grew to symbolize even more.

"I looked at it and saw a reminder of his sacrifice, his service to something greater than himself," she said. "I knew I wanted to follow the same path."

The puppy's connection across generations has grown. It's now her children's turn to clutch Bingo the stuffed puppy as they watch Sanchez put on her own uniform, that of the Port Authority Police Department. Sanchez recently became PAPD's first female captain of Hispanic heritage, just days before welcoming her third son.

"I want women in law enforcement to see my success as their own, as we are strongest when we support one another in our shared battles," Sanchez said. "In a male-dominated field, it often takes twice the effort for us to keep pace, but by opening doors for one another, we can create a more equitable future."

Keep reading on [Now Arriving](#).



# 2024 NBE Carl Creque Book Scholarship Awarded to Students

Congratulations to this year's recipients of the Network of Black Employees' **Carl Creque** Book Scholarship, who were each awarded with a check for \$1,000 to help with their studies.

The promising students are all people of color pursuing higher education. They are all excelling academically, are prominent members in their communities, and are active leaders of various organizations and other initiatives. Their letters of recommendations and personal essays spoke volumes about who they are as individuals and their achievements over the years.

## 2024 Carl Creque Book Scholarship Awardees



**Brian Judge,**  
class of 2027  
at Adelphi University



**Briyana Walker,**  
class of 2028  
at Lehigh University



**Chantal White,**  
class of 2025  
at Chamberlain University



**Daveigh Hedgeman,**  
class of 2028  
at Point Park University



**Nicholas Edmonds,**  
class of 2028  
at University of Connecticut



**Trinity De Freitas,**  
class of 2028  
at Brooklyn College

The Carl Creque Book Scholarship was established to honor Carl, a 30-year employee and NBE chairperson at the time of his passing in October 2007. Carl started his three-decade career as a toll collector and worked his way up to become Aviation General Operations Supervisor. He was an advocate for field staff to have a voice and was known by his fellow employees for his courage in doing the right thing.

Thanks to everyone who generously contributed their time, talent, and resources to raise funds during NBE's bake sales and fundraisers throughout the year.

## STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

# JFK Operations Leader Achieves Prestigious AAE Certification

Congratulations to **Nikola D. Vucicevic**, Assistant Manager of JFK's Airport Operations Center within the Aviation Department, who recently completed a rigorous accreditation program to earn a coveted Accredited Airport Executive (A.A.E.) designation from the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE).

The A.A.E. designation is granted by the AAAE to aviation professionals who have demonstrated their ability to handle the responsibilities of airport management.



Nikola D. Vucicevic

## CALENDAR

### [PA TTL and Abilities Network: Accessibility and Inclusion Projects Showcase](#)

*Monday, October 28, from noon to 1 p.m. on Teams.* Attend a virtual Lunch & Learn event with the [PA Transit Tech Lab](#) and PA Abilities Network. Connect with colleagues as they showcase their cutting-edge accessibility and inclusion projects. Discover the latest trends and join the conversation about how we can create a more inclusive Port Authority for people with disabilities! Please [RSVP by end of day October 24.](#)

### [PAWC: Making Connections](#)

*Wednesday, October 30, and Thursday, November 14. 4 WTC.* The Port Authority Women's Council hosts Making Connections, an ongoing series that connects members with leaders across the agency, with the goals of fostering professional networks and learning about various career journeys. Register for the next two sessions, featuring [Lisa Dewey-Mattia](#), Chief of Staff and Special Counselor to the Executive Director, and [Sanchita Banerjee-Jimenez](#), PATH Deputy Director, will be the next guests.

### [PA TTL Pilots Indoor Wayfinding Tech at EWR Terminal B](#)

A special thanks to Kevin Kline and Mark Herzog from GoodMaps for leading two productive in-person/virtual workshops and a meet-and-greet with the airport community and passengers on October 8. Their efforts are crucial in advancing innovative solutions that enhance customer experience and accessibility in large, complex environments like airports. This initiative sets a new standard for indoor navigation technology, showcasing how modern tools can elevate the travel experience for all passengers.

**The PA TTL wants your feedback!** Employees are invited to [download the GoodMaps app](#) and to try out the wayfinding tech at EWR. Then, [share your experience with the PA TTL.](#)

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