

PA-AAA Marks India and Pakistan Independence Day

The Port Authority Asian American Association (PA-AAA) has long been dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the wide range of history, experiences, and cultures within our communities.

In recognition of Pakistan's and India's Independence Days, which are recognized on August 14 and 15, respectively, PA-AAA members, supporters, and employees from across the agency joined together for an interactive celebration and presentation to highlight these important dates in Asian history.

Among those who spoke during the event were **Annesa Lau**, Director of Operations Services; **Jia Dee Li**, PATH Program Director and PA-AAA President; **Rajaram Vasani**, WTC Construction Program Manager and PA-AAA Events Co-Chair; **Arsalan Azmi** from the Project Management Office; **Muhammad Baksh**, WTC Construction Program Manager; **Bhavesh Patel**, WTC Construction Supervising Project Coordinator; and **Ritika Reikhy**, Engineering Department Senior Engineer.



(From left) Back row: Bhavesh Patel, Rajaram Vasani, Azra Syed, and Arsalan Azmi. Front row: Ritika Reikhy, Annesa Lau, and Courtney Fong



Aspiring Business Managers Program Continues to Develop Careers



Since launching in September 2022, the Aspiring Business Managers Program (ABMP) has helped to further the careers of our agency's administrative professionals, providing them with the critical skills and tools needed to succeed.

On Tuesday, August 8, a celebratory breakfast was held at 4 WTC to reunite the program's first three cohorts. More than 70 graduates and instructors gathered to share success stories and to highlight how the program has helped to transform the careers of several participants, which include 25 new Business Managers.

The 3-month program, developed together with the [Administrative Professionals Networking Group](#), covered a range of topics including supervising, interviewing,

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PAPD Welcomes its Most Diverse Graduating Class Ever

The Port Authority Police Department has just welcomed 151 new officers into its ranks following the graduation of the 121st police academy class last week.

The new class is the most diverse in the PAPD's history, fully representing the rich diversity of the region that the PA serves. Among them are 30 women — the highest number of female recruits in a PAPD class; as well as 130 college graduates; 20 military veterans; 84 with prior law enforcement experience; and

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IN MEMORIAM

Her friends at the Port Authority were saddened to learn of the passing of **Maria M. Flores** on August 3.



Maria joined the agency on July 7, 2003, as an Office Assistant in the Aviation Department's Tech Services unit. She was promoted to a Principal Office Assistant a few months later, then spent the next 5 years at the Downtown Manhattan Heliport as the primary administrator until it closed. In November 2009, Maria moved back to Aviation, where she dedicated the rest of her agency career — taking on various administrative roles of increasing responsibility, most recently serving as Senior Administrative Secretary in Aviation Development.

Maria was a committed administrative professional, remembered for filling a room with positivity and laughter. She was a creative individual who loved DIY projects and was a huge fan of the New York Yankees, even naming her beloved dachshund Jeter.

Maria is survived by her children Vanessa Gross, Gina Mallory, and Tanya Sanders, as well as several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

PAPD Welcomes Graduating Class

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13 with both military and prior law enforcement service.

As part of their 26 weeks of training in one of the most rigorous police academies in the country, the recruits studied New York and New Jersey laws, received comprehensive instruction in police procedures, firearms usage, first aid, LGBTQ sensitivity training, and counterterrorism techniques.

TRADING POST

Did you know that you can use the [Trading Post](#) to request an item you're looking for? Work with your fellow PA employees to get any supplies you may need. Get started [here](#).

PA Spotlights Future of Sustainability at MWBE Symposium

The Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (ODEI) joined together with the Office of Sustainability, PATH, Engineering, and Procurement to host the first-ever in-person MWBE (Minority- and Women-owned Business Enterprise) Sustainability Symposium.

At the Newark Museum of Art on August 3, dozens of diverse firms were on hand to learn about upcoming opportunities at the PA and to engage in discussions about the agency's sustainability initiatives across its facilities.

In attendance from the PA were **Glenessa Gordon** and **Suchetha Premchan** from ODEI; **Arif Welcher** from the Office of Sustainability; **Moussa Abboud** from PATH; **Josh DeFlorio** from Engineering; and **Kedar Gokhale** and **Virginia Cash** from Procurement.



Media Relations Interns Host First-Ever Innovation Hub Showcase

A pair of Media Relations interns recently hosted the first Innovation Hub (iHub) Media Showcase at 4 WTC. Fronted by Media Relations interns **Stella Pagkas** and **Carlos Rene Lozano**, the event highlighted the Innovation team's ideas that developed into real-world pilots.

"We wanted to give the employees who have worked really hard on these iHub pilots the opportunity to speak directly with reporters because they know their projects best," said Stella.

The August 9 showcase included six pilot projects with the employees responsible for each idea at their tables with videos playing and poster boards with information and photos.

"I'm extremely proud of what we have been able to put together in these last 18 months and it's all because people have stepped up with new ideas, project management, and creative innovative solutions," said **Seth Wainer**, Program Director of Innovation.

The pilots included a cost-effective autonomous vehicle streetsweeper, an airport light cleaning machine, an airport community app, a high school challenge to create tunnel catwalk robots, bus terminal artificial intelligence cameras, and video analytics for road safety.

The Lincoln and Holland Tunnel catwalk robot high school challenge is the iHub's first challenge and was submitted by the iHub team's own **Ann Jenica Jose**, Innovation Intern. While the initial idea was proposed by the General Manager of the Lincoln Tunnel, it was Ann Jenica's idea to involve high school students. She said it was "surreal" to have her idea implemented.



Agency Sponsors STEM Summer Program at Kean University

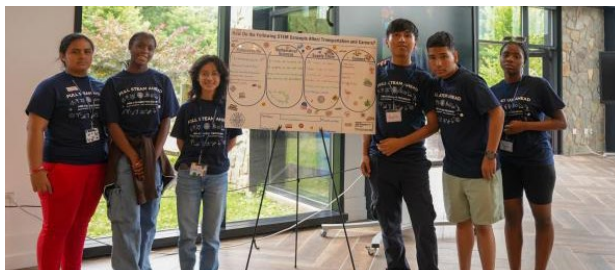
During a [Kean University summer program](#) sponsored by the Port Authority and Kean's Office of Career Services, pre-college students from Jersey City and Elizabeth explored potential careers in engineering, cybersecurity and other STEM-related fields.

"We support the regional and local economy," said **Jenny Davis**, Chief of Intergovernmental Affairs at the PA. "The Port Authority needs to get people engaged and interested in what we do. What better way to start than with students."

The Full STEaM Ahead pilot program brought 25 middle and high school students to Kean's main campus for four weeks of classes, experiments, and field trips designed to build their skills in STEM areas and ignite their interest in future career paths.

The students, selected with the help of community partners, Team Walker in Jersey City and the Elizabeth Development Company in Elizabeth, went to Newark Liberty International Airport, Liberty Science Center and the Skylands campus in Jefferson Township and were mentored by Kean students.

"I learned that math is needed for everything," said Mena Mansour, 15, of Jersey City, a high school junior, who said she wants to become a doctor. "This program made me sure of what I want to do."



PA Bowling League Returns!

Bowling, anyone? For the first time in nearly four years, the PA Bowling League will be back in action each week, either on Mondays or Tuesdays, at 6 p.m. at Hudson Lanes, 1 Garfield Ave., Jersey City. Play starts on the week of September 11 and will run over a 30-week season with four-person teams. Friends and family are welcome! For more information, contact **Kathleen O'Connor** at kmoconnor@panynj.gov.



2019 champions Alvin Camacho, Susan DiGiacinto, and Harry Holland

CALENDAR

[PAHS: Carnival and School Supplies Giveaway](#)

NEW DATE Sunday, August 27 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Family Center, 466 W Grand Avenue, Rahway, NJ. The Port Authority Hispanic Society (PAHS) has rescheduled its annual summer picnic and Back-to-School Carnival and Supplies Giveaway. PAHS aims to collect and distribute 500 supply packs for school children in the Port District. [See the flyer for more information](#), including how to get involved and ways to donate. All are welcome! To RSVP and for more information, email PAHS@panynj.gov.

[PAHS: De Todo Un Poco \(A little bit of everything\)](#)

NEW DATE Thursday, September 14 from 5 to 8 p.m., Xchange, 4000 Riverside Station Boulevard, Secaucus, NJ. The Port Authority Hispanic Society

(PAHS) will host a celebration of cultural diversity at "De Todo Un Poco," a mixer and cultural exploration of Hispanic culture, including music, dance, and cuisines. Early registration is \$25; tickets are \$35 at the door. PAHS members will receive an invitation. Non-members can register by emailing PAHS@panynj.gov.

[PAVA: Supply Drive for the Troops](#)

Ongoing. The Port Authority Veterans Association (PAVA) is hosting a military care package supply drive to share some support, comfort, and joy with our troops overseas. Snacks, personal care products, books, or magazines can make a huge difference to our service members overseas. Donation boxes are [located throughout various PA/PATH facilities](#) now and will be available through September 20. [Check out PA News](#) for a full list of box locations and for suggested items.

Aspiring Business Managers Program

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organization, time management, budgeting, policies, and technology skills.

For any questions about the ABMP, contact **Miriam Simon**, Manager of Business Analysis and Departmental Performance in the Human Resources Department or **Maria Shpokayte**, Senior Talent Management Executive in the Human Resources Department. There is already a waiting list for the next cohort of the ABMP, which will continue into next year. Apply to join the [ABMP here](#).

To learn more about the administrative professionals who were featured during the event, see the [PA News website](#).

