

2023 Month of Service in Photos

The Remembrance Through Renewal team sends a heartfelt 'thank you' to all who participated in the 2023 Month of Service. Thanks to your help, we were able to partner with **26 organizations** across the bi-state region. Over **200 participants** representing departments throughout the agency came together to organize food bank donations, get their hands dirty with some landscaping work, scrub subways and boats, and much more! In addition, more than



NJ Tree Foundation



City Harvest



Bruce Reynolds Garden



St. John's Bread and Life

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ODEI Chief of Staff Honored for Hispanic Heritage Month

Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (ODEI) Chief of Staff **Leticia Caviness** was recently honored by the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) for her contributions to transportation in the bistate region.

On October 6, COMTO's New York chapter recognized Leticia during its annual Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration. ODEI and the agency have partnered with COMTO since 2007 as part of the PA's continued efforts to be a good neighbor in the region we serve.

Leticia, who is a two-time recipient of the COMTO scholarship program, recognizes the critical role pipeline organizations such as COMTO play in recruiting talent into the industry. Learn more about [COMTO and this year's event](#).



Glenessa Gordon, ODEI Business Diversity Assistant Director; Leticia Caviness; and Jose Febrillet, Chief Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer

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WTC Oculus Wins Pinnacle Award for Mixed-Use Building of the Year

The Oculus at the World Trade Center recently won [the Pinnacle Award](#) for the Mixed-Use Building of the Year.

"It's the Oscars of the property management world," said **John Farrell**, Deputy General Manager of the World Trade Center Department. "Now that we've won NYC, we are getting ready



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STAFF NEWS

Amy Fisher Nominated for General Counsel

Amy Fisher, Acting General Counsel, has been nominated for appointment as permanent General Counsel. The nomination will be presented to the board at its October meeting.



Since May 2023 (when she was named Acting General Counsel), Amy has overseen all aspects of the agency's Law Department, handling litigation, contract, employment, finance, leases, public securities, regulatory compliance, and other legal matters and has served as the agency's chief legal officer.

Amy joined the Port Authority in 2017 as First Deputy General Counsel. In her role, Amy has led consideration of legal issues in airport development activities; for the lease negotiations in support of the recently opened Ronald O. Perelman Performing Arts Center; for the extension of the air and marine terminal leases with New York City and the City of Newark; for construction closeout for the Goethals Bridge, the George Washington Bridge Bus Station, LaGuardia Terminal B, and other projects.

Before joining the Port Authority, Amy served as Managing Director at GE Energy Financial Services for 17 years. Previously, she was a partner practicing corporate law in Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal. Amy earned her undergraduate degree at Wesleyan University and graduated from Columbia University School of Law.

Amy will be the first woman to hold the General Counsel position in the agency's history.

PA Cyclists: Join the Ride for YOU!

Are you looking for a healthier (and fun!) way to commute? Did you know that there's a group of avid cyclists at the agency? Or that the PA was the first transportation agency in the region to partner with [Citi Bike](#) to provide discounted bikeshare memberships for its employees?

Alexander Levi, Principal Architect in the Engineering Architecture Design Division, was tasked with creating a plan for cycling in 2008. Now, Levi leads the PA Cyclists group.

PA Cyclists is a group for bike riders looking to talk about bicycling activities, organizing rides, commuting to work, joining recreational rides, representing the PA at public events, and pedaling the extra mile for occasional commuter challenges. Levi recently got the group together to ride across the opening of the north walk at the George Washington Bridge.

"PA Cyclists are from every part of the district," said Levi. "Some are as far as Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Staten Island, Brooklyn, Queens, and all the way out on Long Island."

There are places to park bicycles at [every PA facility](#), making it easy to move from all over the region. So, why contribute to the tens of thousands of cars during rush hour when you can compare and compete with coworkers on [Strava](#) and make commuting an exciting challenge?

"It's only for fun," said Levi. "It's only for the betterment of your mind and, for me as a designer, it's a creative way to get your thoughts going. If you're just stuck at your desk, you're never going to solve anything. Frustration melts away after a bike ride."

Join dozens of your colleagues in the PA Cyclists group on Microsoft Teams: [click here!](#) There you'll find resources, upcoming events, and competitions like the NYC Bike challenge, as well as how to [Find a Bike Buddy](#) for commuting to/from New York using a carpool match. Happy cycling!



Alexander Levi and James Loudon outside the Oculus

PA Cafeterias Fuel the Workers Who Move the Region

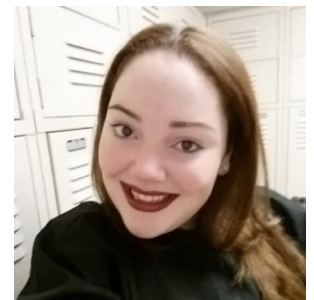
Originally published on [Now Arriving](#), written by Media Relations' Ruchi Patel.

It's 4 a.m. in Jersey City. Parking lots sit empty. Houses are shrouded in darkness. But **Lizet Vazquez** is flicking on the lights inside the cafeteria at the Port Authority Technical Center. It's breakfast time, and she knows she has big appetites to fill. She starts preparing two types of hot cereals, four breakfast meats, two types of potatoes, a cold breakfast bar. And that doesn't include days that warrant specials.

So begins the day at one of the PA's four cafeterias, where the workers behind the scenes of running the bistate region's major transportation hubs get their own fuel to power through a region that never stops moving. During the COVID-19 pandemic, employee cafeterias remained open so agency shift workers wouldn't go hungry as restaurants and cafes closed early or shuttered entirely. Electricians, engineers, maintenance staff and construction workers all have access to a variety of nutritious options, prepared with a dash of dedication from cooks like Vazquez.

"I've been cooking with my grandma since I was 8," she said. "I come from a traditional Puerto Rican family whose gatherings are deeply rooted in food. My grandma always expected me to learn how to cook and keep our family traditions and recipes alive."

Continue reading on [Now Arriving](#).



EWR Maintenance Crews Wear Pink for Breast Cancer Awareness Month

On October 5, dozens of maintenance staff from Newark Liberty International Airport came together wearing pink Port Authority shirts in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



CALENDAR

PA-AAA: HeART Wellness x Heart of Dinner

Tuesday, October 24 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 4 WTC 15th Floor Conference Rooms A and B. The Port Authority Asian American Association (PA-AAA) will host this annual event, which includes decorating notes and bags for [Heart of Dinner](#) in native languages for delivering love (food) for Asian Elders. Art supplies and samples will be provided. Also learn mindfulness techniques through self-expression, play, healing and creativity with [Suzii Chan](#), artist and integrative relationship coach. Members will receive an invitation. For non-members to RSVP, email PAAAA@panynj.gov.

APNG: Networking Mixer

Wednesday, October 25, 1 to 3 p.m. Port Authority Technical Center (PATC), 3rd Floor. (Shuttle service from multiple locations will be available.) Calling all admin professionals: Don't miss out on this chance to connect with other admins, agency leaders, and potential mentors at the Administrative Professionals Networking Group's (APNG) networking mixer. Space is limited. [RSVP on Eventbrite](#). For any questions, contact PA_APNG@panynj.gov. [See flyer here](#).

PAHS: De Todo Un Poco (A little bit of everything) and Game Night

NEW DATE Thursday, October 26 from 5 to 8 p.m. VFW Post 1302, 300 Belgrove, Kearney, NJ. The Port Authority Hispanic Society (PAHS) will host a scholarship fundraiser game night to mark Hispanic Heritage Month. In an unforgettable celebration of cultural diversity, this will be a mixer and cultural exploration of flavors, rhythms, and traditions, including music, dance demonstration, and cuisines. Pre-purchase tickets at \$40; or \$50 at the door. All proceeds will benefit the PAHS Scholarship Fund. PAHS members will receive an invitation. Non-members can register by emailing PAHS@panynj.gov.

PA Bowling League

Either on Mondays or Tuesdays, at 6 p.m., Hudson Lanes, 1 Garfield Ave., Jersey City. Bowling, anyone? For the first time in nearly four years, the PA Bowling League is back in action, meeting on either Mondays or Tuesdays and running 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.

GOT NEWS FOR NEXT TIME?

Do you have news from your team, department or employee group to share in the next PA News? Send it to panews@panynj.gov by October 20 to be included in the October 27 issue.



Daughter of TB&T Employee Recognized for Biomedical Development

Isabell Devereaux, daughter of TB&T Customer Experience Senior Supervisor **Meagan Devereaux**, was recently part of a team of students who developed a new way to diagnose skin cancer.

Earlier this spring, Isabell and a group of fellow biomedical engineering students at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute [helped create a critical component](#) that may be used to diagnose skin cancer rapidly and at the point of care, pending FDA clearance.

"Seeing a product move from idea to useable solution is uniquely rewarding, especially as a student," said Isabell. "I was gifted the opportunity to work with an incredibly talented team while being guided by experienced professors and an enthusiastic corporate sponsor. This experience will be something I carry with me as I look to begin my post-grad career."

Students were tasked with developing a sample preparation method as part of a new biospecimen processing platform. Isabell and her team came up with a multi-chamber device that is cost-effective and completely passive, using only gravity to exchange the reagents and excluding any mechanically active components.

The result was impressive, winning the top prize of "Best Design."



Isabell (center) helped develop a new way to diagnose skin cancer

WTC Oculus Wins Pinnacle Award

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for Regional Awards and hopefully onto Nationals and Internationals!”

The Pinnacle Award website shares that, “these awards have increasingly begun to symbolize what we do best for our tenants, our clients and the City of New York at large.” The Building Owners and Managers Association of New York (BOMA NY) marked the win for the WTC Department and CBRE Property Management, which manages the Oculus, with a post on [LinkedIn](#).

ODEI Chief of Staff Honored

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Leticia, who served as President of the Port Authority Hispanic Society from 2016 to 2018, is an active participant in several organizations and initiatives. She served as the Treasurer of the Women in Transportation Seminar (WTS) New Jersey Chapter, a non-profit focused on advancing women’s careers in the transportation industry, from 2020 to 2022. She also served as a Mentor Coach for America Needs You from 2013 to 2016.

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64 employees participated in the annual Blood Drive at 4 WTC, donating enough blood to **save 192 lives!**

A special thanks to the agency’s Employee Business Resource Groups (EBRGs) and their dedicated memberships for hosting several events! We thank you all for your participation. It is truly a special way give back to the community in honor of the friends and colleagues lost in the attacks on the World Trade Center on February 26, 1993, and September 11, 2001.

We look forward to seeing you again next year!



Snug Harbor



Battery Park City



NY Transit Museum



NY Common Pantry – Harlem



Project Hospitality



Liberty State Park



Community Food Bank of NJ



South Street Seaport



Liberty State Park



Long Island Cares