



## 2026 New Jersey CPM Graduation – September 25, 2026

The theme of this year's graduation is **"Serving Together, Leading as One."**

Six cohorts graduated this year; among them were NJ5 Virtual and NJ6 Virtual cohorts and in-person cohorts in Lawrence Township 3, Newark 9, Wayne 7, and Westampton 8. There were 106 graduates comprised of 32 state, 14 county, and 60 local participants.

This year, the Askew Award was presented to recipients from both the 2025 and 2026 graduating classes, as the award was not presented last year.



**2025 Askew Award Recipient - Hernani Goncalves**, Executive Director, Fort Lee Parking Authority – Freehold 6 – *Parking Garage Structure Inspection and Fire Safety*

#### **2025 Askew Award Nominees**

1. **\*Hernani Goncalves**, Executive Director, Fort Lee Parking Authority – Freehold 6 – *Parking Garage Structure Inspection and Fire Safety* (**\*Askew Award Recipient**)
2. **Jonathan Castañeda**, Deputy Municipal Administrator, Town of West New York – NJ-3 Virtual – *From Relief to Resilience: Leveraging Equitable Tax Rate Mechanisms to Transition New Jersey Municipal Budgets Beyond Post-Pandemic Federal Aid*
3. **Hector Carlos Lora**, Mayor, City of Passaic – Wayne 6 – *Private Public Partnerships*
4. **Richard J. Laird III, Lieutenant**, Lawrence Township Police Department – Lawrence Township 2 – *Needle in the Haystack: Hiring Future Law Enforcement Leaders*
5. **Dr. Lance T. Smith Sr.**, Assistant Director of Community and Economic Development, City of Atlantic City – Atlantic City 5 – *Municipal Leadership Development and Succession Planning*

**2026 Askew Award Recipient - Judith Sanchez**, Community Service Worker, City of Passaic Department of Human Services – Newark 9 – *Wraparound Services for Individuals at Risk or Currently Experiencing Homelessness* (No photo)

#### **2026 Askew Award Nominees**

1. **Kenneth Schiattarella**, Captain of Police, Stafford Township Police Department – Westampton 8 – *Comprehensive Fitness and Wellness Program*
2. **Richard G. Franchetta, EJD, RMC**, City Clerk & Director of Fire-EMS, City of Vineland – NJ-5 Virtual – *Responding to the Responders: Developing a Wellness and Resiliency Program for the Vineland Fire Department*

3. **\*Judith Sanchez**, Community Service Worker, City of Passaic Department of Human Services – Newark 9 – *Wraparound Services for Individuals at Risk or Currently Experiencing Homelessness (\*Askew Award Recipient)*

4. **Heather J. Darling, Esq.**, Surrogate, Morris County – NJ-6 Virtual – *The Use of Artificial Intelligence to Manage Non-Physical Reception Tasks Within the Morris County Surrogate’s Court*

5. **Nathalie O. Verhaegen**, Associate Counsel/Regulatory Officer, Office of Governor Mikie Sherrill/New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection – Lawrence Township 3 – *Should New Jersey Engage a Recycling Market Accelerator?*

6. **Robert P. Welter**, Public Works Superintendent, Township of Belleville – Wayne 7 – *Improvements of Garbage/Recycling Program*

### **2026 Spirit of Service Award Recipient**

The ceremony also marked the inaugural presentation of the **Spirit of Service Award**, recognizing a New Jersey CPM graduate who exemplifies a strong commitment to public service.



**Detective Sergeant Chinere Jenkins** of the **Passaic County Sheriff’s Office** was honored with the inaugural **Spirit of Service Award** during the CPM Graduation Ceremony. With nearly 17 years in law enforcement, Detective Sergeant Jenkins has demonstrated a commitment to public service through her work in officer training, professional accountability, and community engagement. Her service also extends beyond law enforcement through her mentorship and advocacy for young women, exhibiting a

commitment to supporting others and making a lasting impact in her community. She is a true reflection of what it means to be a public servant.