



NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF NEW JERSEY State Parole Board

Phillip D. Murphy, Governor
Sheila Y. Oliver, Lt. Governor
Samuel J. Plumeri, Jr., Chairman

P.O. Box 862
Trenton, NJ 08625-0862

For Immediate Release

Contact: Tony Ciavolella,
Director of Communications
(609) 292-4031
(609) 439-5462 (cell)
Tony.Ciavolella@spb.nj.gov

2020-010

NEW JERSEY STATE PAROLE BOARD'S VIRTUAL INTERN GRADUATION CEREMONY BECOMES A REALITY

Technology Enables Students the Opportunity to be Recognized Through Safe, Healthy, Social Distancing Measures

TRENTON, NJ, August 21, 2020 – Nothing was going to stop the New Jersey State Parole Board from congratulating four of its interns who participated in the agency's summer program. Amid various safety measures in the U.S. and across the globe due to COVID-19, the State Parole Board held the first of its kind *Intern Graduation Recognition Ceremony*. And, this was all thanks to "virtual" video conferencing.

As society continues practicing social distancing, many are also exploring new and innovative ways to carry on within this "new norm." The State Parole Board's "virtual" graduation ceremony recognized interns who participated in a program that provided meaningful, real-world, work-learning experiences for qualified college students and graduates entering the job market. There were a total of 14 interns who completed the program—four of whom participated in the "virtual" ceremony and received their "virtual" graduation certificates, which will be mailed to them as well.



New Jersey State Parole Board Chairman

Samuel J. Plumeri, Jr. said "While the world continues to face this pandemic, the State Parole Board understands the importance of social distancing. However, we also wanted to find a way to provide a fitting tribute to these bright, eager students. Kudos to State Parole Board Member Julio Marengo and staffer Danielle Garoniak for their vision, development, and ingenuity in putting the virtual video graduation ceremony together."

"Each semester, our interns work diligently to gain a clear understanding of the Parole Board's role within the criminal justice system," said Board Member Marengo. "Because these students work so hard, they deserve to be recognized for their educational achievement. The virtual graduation was the nexus between technology, safety, and traditional recognition. For me, it was certainly a new experience."

Intern graduate Christina Cuomo said "Having the opportunity to intern at the NJ state parole board has been one of the most meaningful internship experiences of my college career. I was exposed to many different aspects of the criminal justice field as possible and I will always value the lessons taught through this great experience."

more

Since the New Jersey State Parole Board Internship Program began in 2011, 431 interns were placed for assignment at either the agency’s central office in Trenton, one of the parole district offices throughout the state, or a parole office at a state prison.



The interns attend a variety of colleges and universities, including Rutgers University, Seton Hall University, Rowan University, The College of New Jersey, Monmouth University, and William Paterson University. The Internship Program has three sessions throughout the year: spring, summer, and fall. Those interested in learning more about the New Jersey State Parole Board’s program are encouraged to visit:

<https://www.state.nj.us/parole/recruitment.html>.

Below is a full list of the summer Internship Program graduates, along with their schools and hometowns.

The New Jersey State Parole Board is committed to promoting public safety, utilizing effective methods to aid supervised offenders in reentering society and to reduce the recidivism of offenders while addressing the needs of crime victims. As required by law, appointed parole board members and staff conduct approximately 13,500 hearings per year, solicit input from victims, and decide upon parole matters. Nearly 400 sworn parole officers supervise more than 15,500 offenders and act as New Jersey’s primary law enforcement agency responsible for sex offender supervision. Additionally, State Parole officers are also active partners with a variety of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and task forces. Finally, the agency’s Community Programs Unit partners with government, non-profit, and private agencies to connect former inmates with vocational, mental health, and related services.

Christina Cuomo
Sophia Langone
Claudio Barahona
Rey Delgado
Nelly Espitia
Daniel Fenniman
Lauren Funderburg
Karina Gonzalez
Katherine Granja
Julia Lydon
Julia Marchak
George Mateo
Jacqueline Nguyen
RoseMarie Varela

Princeton
 Mercerville
 West New York
 Woodbridge
 Lodi
 Pequannock
 Ewing
 Penns Grove
 Perth Amboy
 Hamilton
 Bayville
 Clementon
 Pennsauken
 Newark

The College of New Jersey
 Rider University
 Seton Hall University
 Fairleigh Dickinson University
 William Paterson University
 Monmouth University
 Bloomfield College
 Rowan University
 Rutgers University
 Arizona State University
 The College of New Jersey
 Rutgers University (Camden)
 Rowan University
 John Jay College

Photo Captions:

Photo # 1: *State Parole Board intern graduate Christina Cuomo is congratulated by State Parole Board Member Julio Marengo, who also serves as committee chairman of the agency’s internship program.*

Photo # 2: *State Parole Board Internship Program Coordinator Danielle Garoniak presents graduation certificates for the student interns.*