

**For Immediate Release:  
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## **Markell Announces State Employees of the Year**

*One team and five individuals receive the  
Delaware Award for Excellence and Commitment in State Service*

*Dover* – Governor Jack Markell today recognized and celebrated the efforts of the 2011 recipients of the Delaware Award for Excellence and Commitment in State Service. The award winners and nominees were recognized for their exemplary efforts in service to the State of Delaware.

“These award recipients embody the service and commitment of state employees,” said Governor Markell. “They represent the best. Their work enables state government to function efficiently, effectively and better serve the public.”

The 2011 recipients are:

- **John Oldigs, Department of Correction, Bureau of Correctional Health Care Services** - John is an expert in fiscal management and was instrumental in setting up payment processes for the Bureau of Correctional Healthcare Services (BCHS) with a budget of \$50.2 million. This past year, John also showed heroism by assisting a Cheswold police officer who was being physically attacked.
- **Gregory Morehart, Department of Correction, Probation and Parole** - Senior Probation Officer Greg Morehart’s knowledge, skills and expertise helped an investigation involving multiple law enforcement agencies and federal organizations in the U. S. and abroad. In that case, he tracked a sex offender to Las Vegas and the Philippines and assisted with the arrest and conviction for crimes against children.
- **Andrea Summers, Alison Kirk, Tim Li and Anthony Alba, Department of Safety and Homeland Security, Office of Highway Safety** - This team touched the lives of thousands of Delaware teens by raising awareness of the dangers and consequences of underage drinking. They coordinated a statewide video contest encouraging teens to create a public service announcement, which produced creative videos that aggressively detailed the perils of underage drinking.
- **Carole Hoffecker, Department of State, Office of State Bank Commissioner** - Carole has made it her mission to keep Delawareans in their homes. She stopped hundreds of Sheriff’s sales and opened lines of communication and building relationships between mortgage companies, borrowers, housing counselors and charities in all three counties to prevent others.
- **Jennifer Volk, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Water Resources** – Jennifer’s implementation of President Obama’s Executive Order and EPA requirements led to the successful establishment of Delaware’s Chesapeake

Bay Watershed plan. She addressed and resolved issues that affect every Delawarean through the proper coordination of agriculture, storm water, wastewater, land use, comprehensive plans, restorations, information technology and communications.

- **Joanne Gawinski, Department of Finance, Office of the Secretary** - In addition to performing her regular assignments, Joanne outdid herself while filling in during a co-worker's prolonged absence last year. In addition to coordinating Secretary Cook's busy schedule, she provided excellent customer service and helped coordinate the senior school property tax credit program. Joanne also coordinated and provided administrative support to the newly formed Lottery Commission, in addition to her regular responsibilities for supporting the Delaware Economic and Financial Advisory Council (DEFAC) and the Tax Appeal Board.