



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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County, Departments, Employees Receiving Honors and Accolades

PITTSBURGH – County Executive Rich Fitzgerald announced today that the county, several county departments and employees of Allegheny County have recently been honored or received accolades for personal or professional accomplishments.

Allegheny County

During last night's 2014-2015 Green Workplace Challenge Finale and Awards Ceremony, it was announced that Allegheny County was the top performer in the category of Large Municipal Government. The county also received an award for Top Waste Reducer, having a 62% reduction in landfilled waste mass. The awards culminated the end of a yearlong, friendly competition for businesses, nonprofits, municipalities, and universities to track and measure improvements in energy, water, waste and transportation. Eighty seven employers from throughout southwestern Pennsylvania signed up for the competition which began in October 2014 and ended on October 31, 2015. Fifty of those were active participants.

This is the third year in which Allegheny County participated, including one year as an observer when the competition was open only to businesses. The county was the top scorer in the municipality/local government category for 2013-2014 and the top scorer in the large municipality/local government category for 2014-2015.

Allegheny County Department of Public Works

The Allegheny County Department of Public Works was the recipient of the Outstanding Highway Engineering Award for projects under \$5 million presented by the American Society of Highway Engineers. The award was made for the Chartiers Creek Bridge No. 6 Preservation Project. The bridge carries Carothers Avenue/Third Street over Chartiers Creek between Scott Township and Carnegie Borough, serving as a vital link for both communities.

The bridge was built in 1927 and is the longest Warren truss in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The structure has been determined to be eligible for inclusion into the National Register of Historic Places. The structure was not only strengthened and recoated but also added safety features and tied the bridge in to the community's beautification project. As part of the mitigation measures for replacing the deteriorated pedestrian railing, the bridge plaque that was part of the existing railing was installed into the backside of the concrete barrier and visible to the sidewalk pedestrian traffic.

Allegheny County hired HDR Engineering, Inc. to perform the design which began in 2011. Swank Construction was the low bidder on the \$1.6 Million project that received 80% Federal and 15% State funding. Construction began in June 2014 and ended in December 2014 and was managed and

inspected by CDM Smith. Ms. Jeanna Fisher served as the Project Manager for the county and served a key role in the project's success.

Allegheny County Office of the Medical Examiner

The Allegheny County Office of the Medical Examiner, Forensic Science Laboratory Division, Toxicology Section received notification from the Pennsylvania Department of Health that its laboratory met all Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) conditions and level requirements. Its recertification was formalized at the end of October.

Marcell Rowland

Marcell Rowland, a laundry worker at the Shuman Juvenile Detention Center, and his wife, Charlene, were honored in Washington, D.C. by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute in October as a 2015 Angel in Adoption. The Rowlands adopted three siblings (ages 4, 5 and 7) in July 2015 to keep the family together and ensure that they grew up together in a protective and loving environment.

Mary Esther Van Shura, Ed.D.

Mary Esther Van Shura, the Director of Community Affairs in the County Executive's office, was recognized by the Southwestern Pennsylvania Partnership for Aging (SWPPA) as the *Charles W. Pruitt Jr. Award of Excellence* winner for 2015. The award recognizes outstanding efforts in the field of aging which has a regional, state or national impact. Dr. Van Shura was recognized for her lifetime commitment to the betterment of life of seniors and people with disabilities in so many important ways. Her nomination also lauded her for having been critical in promoting the cause and needs of seniors and persons with disabilities in all levels of government. The award was presented to her on December 2nd at the SWPPA Conference.

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