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# Press Release

# NEWS

Burlington County  
Board of Chosen Freeholders

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Friday, January 15, 2010

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## **2009 OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF BURLINGTON COUNTY ANNOUNCED**

### **Seven Distinguished Females to be Honored at March Banquet**

Burlington County Freeholders today announced seven winners of the Advisory Council on Women's Outstanding Women of Burlington County Award.

The winners, who are chosen in six areas of exceptional service, plus a student scholarship award, will be honored at a banquet Thursday, March 25 at Merion Caterers in Cinnaminson. For tickets (\$40), contact Kim Mattson at [kmattson@co.burlington.nj.us](mailto:kmattson@co.burlington.nj.us) or (609) 702-7086. Scheduled to receive awards are:

#### **Education**

**Nancy Ireland** of Mount Laurel is a curriculum supervisor for Mount Laurel Schools and a teacher with the Gifted and Talented Program. She also has volunteered for the past 15 years with the Alice Paul Institute which educates the public about New Jersey's most famous suffragist and author of the Equal Rights Amendment. Ireland is a member of the Board and was a founding member of the committee that created the Alice Paul Leadership Program that introduces teen girls to women mentors and the skills to become leaders. She also created *Meeting Alice*, a history program for fourth graders.

#### **Government**

**Col. Gina M. Grosso**, Joint Base and 87<sup>th</sup> Air Base Wing Commander at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. Col. Grasso provides installation support to more than 40 mission commanders at the first and only joint base that consolidates Air Force, Army and Navy installations. She also is responsible for providing mission ready expeditionary airmen to combatant commanders in support of joint operations.

#### **Public Service**

**Jean Messina** of Mount Holly. A former nurse for many years, Jean has devoted herself full-time to public service for the past five years for many organizations such as Main Street Mount Holly, the Burlington County College Foundation and the Critical Care Nurses Association. She has participated in many community service projects such as the Girl Scouts, the Children's Home, American Red Cross, and Drenk Foundation. *(more)*

**PRESS RELEASE, BURLCO OUTSTANDING WOMEN, 1-15-10, ADD TWO**

#### **Medicine**

**Dr. Sanya Sweeney**, DMD of Moorestown. Owner of a dental practice in Riverton, Dr. Sweeney has a clinic for those who cannot afford dental work and has helped women referred by the YMCA's Women's Opportunity Center needing comprehensive restorative dentistry. She is now restoring the smile of a single mother who had some teeth knocked out in a domestic violence situation. Dr. Sweeney also is a clinical assistant professor for dentistry at the Rosenthal Institute at New York University.

### **Social Service**

**Cheryl Conway** of Southampton. As Chief Executive Officer of Crossroads Programs for the nine years, Conway helps homeless girls and all youths by creating a safe environment, mentoring them and advocating for their needs. She created the only mentoring service in the county that targets at-risk preteen girls and also established teen parenting initiatives. Conway has been involved in social work her entire career, previously working for Family Service of Burlington County and also is involved in community organizations such as Rotary Club and Boy Scouts.

### **Volunteerism**

**Ebba Liguori** of Browns Mills. A full-time volunteer, Ebba has been a Girl Scout leader for 45 years, a volunteer at Buttonwood Hospital for 35 years and parish organist and choir director for St. Ann's Church for 25 years and was the volunteer youth minister for the church youth group for 20 years. She serves as an appointed member of Pemberton Township Seniors Citizens Council, is a member of the Browns Mills Improvement Association, and assists women with financial guidance and handicapped women by providing rides to doctors. With a degree in chemical engineering, she has volunteered for various engineering societies. For the past five years she has written the Senior News column for the Community News.

### **Celeste Arties Outstanding Student of the Year - \$500 Scholarship**

**Gabrielle Arenge** of Hedding, senior at Northern Burlington Regional High School. Member of school's LIFE program which educates students of the dangers of unsafe sex and targets girls about how to protect themselves and deal with abuse. Activities include soccer coach/referee for Mansfield elementary school, Relay for Life, Diabetes Walk, National Honor Society Blood Drive, Environmental Cleanup Day, REBEL, Interact, All-State Women's Choir, Class Council, United Nations Student Alliance Club. She plans college majors in psychology and secondary education.

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See next page for photos:



Nancy Ireland



Cheryl Conway



Dr. Sanya Sweeney



Ebba Liguori

*...more photos*



Gabrielle Arengé



Jean Messina



Col. Gina Grosso