



Mikie Sherrill
Governor

Dr. Dale G. Caldwell
Lt. Governor

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
CENTER FOR LEARNING AND IMPROVING PERFORMANCE
P.O. Box 318
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0318

Mary Cruz
Acting Chair/Chief Executive Officer

Media Contact:

Alyssa Johnson-Mims

CSCCommunications@csc.nj.gov

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**Governor Mikie Sherrill and New Jersey Civil Service Commission Present
Inaugural Spirit of Service Award**

TRENTON, NJ — Governor Mikie Sherrill and the New Jersey Civil Service Commission (CSC) are proud to announce the inaugural **Spirit of Service Award**, a new honor recognizing a graduate of the **New Jersey Certified Public Manager (CPM) Program** who exemplifies the highest ideals of public service through professional contributions, community engagement, collaboration, integrity, and a commitment to serving others.

The inaugural award was presented during the **2026 New Jersey Certified Public Manager Graduation Ceremony** on Friday, September 25th. Created by the New Jersey Civil Service Commission in collaboration with the New Jersey Certified Public Manager Advisory Board, the award recognizes a CPM graduate whose leadership and service extend beyond the classroom and whose contributions have made a meaningful and lasting impact on their organization, colleagues, and the communities they serve.

This year, **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.

"New Jersey is at its best when talented and dedicated public servants bring their skills, experience, and commitment to the work of serving our residents," **said Governor Mikie Sherrill**. "The Spirit of Service Award is a meaningful way to recognize those leaders who go above and beyond—not simply in what they accomplish, but in how they serve others. These are the public

servants who strengthen our institutions, support their colleagues, and help build a government that works for the people of New Jersey.”

The Spirit of Service Award reflects the importance of cultivating a strong and professional public workforce. Governor Sherrill has emphasized the critical role of New Jersey’s public servants in delivering efficient, responsive government and strengthening services for residents.

“The Spirit of Service Award recognizes something that cannot be measured by a single project or accomplishment—the lasting impact a public servant has on the people and organizations around them,” said **Mary Cruz, Acting Chair and Chief Executive Officer of the New Jersey Civil Service Commission**. “Our CPM graduates are committed leaders who continually find ways to improve their organizations, support their colleagues, and strengthen the communities they serve. This award gives us an opportunity to celebrate a graduate who exemplifies leadership, integrity, collaboration, and dedication to her community and state. Congratulations to **Detective Sergeant Chinere Jenkins** for her outstanding accomplishments and embodying the true spirit of public service.”

Eligible CPM graduates submit a self-nomination, which is evaluated by the Spirit of Service Award Review Committee of the New Jersey Certified Public Manager Advisory Board based on established award criteria. The award recognizes the broad and lasting impact of public service, including contributions to an organization, colleagues, and the people of New Jersey.



Pictured above (from left to right): LaVida Stalsworth, CSC CPM Program Director; Detective Sergeant Chinere Jenkins; CSC Acting Chair/CEO Mary Cruz; Denise Palmisano, Rutgers-SPAA CPM Program Director.

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More information about the NJ Certified Public Manager (CPM) Program:

<https://www.nj.gov/csc/training/cpm/>

More information about the CSC's Center for Learning and Improving Performance (CLIP):

<https://www.nj.gov/csc/training/index.shtml>