

## **NJCEIA 2015 STUDENT & PRACTITIONER AWARDS WINNERS**

We have reached another awards season; however, this year is much different. Based on the historic merger of NJCEIA and NJACE to create New Jersey Career Center Consortium (NJC3), this will be the last NJCEIA awards program. NJC3 will continue an awards program and will be looking to membership to revamp and create an awards program reflecting the goals and mission of the new organization.

Therefore, it is my pleasure to present the winners of the final NJCEIA awards program to the membership of NJCEIA & NJACE. Three awards were presented to students for the non-technical/4-year institution, the technical/4-year institution and the non-technical/2-year institution categories. One award was given for the practitioner of the year category. Each winner received notification in June along with a cash award of \$250. It is an impressive group of winners who truly exemplify professionalism and excellence in the field.

Daniel Hupp of Stevens Institute of Technology won the student award in the technical category for 4-year institutions. The cybersecurity major made his mark working at Morgan Stanley in NYC. During his co-op he learned a new scripting language and was given the opportunity of providing training for students in a special Morgan Stanley program that provides summer internships to high school students. He looks forward to applying the skills and knowledge he gained during his co-op when he begins a full-time position with Morgan Stanley this summer.

Michael Claudio, a broadcasting major at Montclair State University, interned at the student run radio station, 90.3 FMWMS. During his tenure as Station Manager, the radio station made a major transition from being a student club to a full service college radio station. His supervisor and General Manager, Richard Hinchliffe noted in his letter of support, "As Station Manager, Michael has been relentless in recruiting, training and assigning students from across campus and alumni from near and far. He has defended his core belief in independent student expression and experimentation, while incorporating the station's academic connection as an ongoing student learning process. The results are smarter students, better radio and broader support for WMS at the university and beyond. This would not have happened without the dedicated leadership of one Michael Claudio. His legacy is nothing less than the rebirth and reinvention of quality college radio at Montclair State".

Steven Paul-Pierre is a student at Essex County College and interned at Sirius XM Radio as a Helpdesk Technician Intern during the spring semester. This first generation college student identified his interest in technology during high school. He further honed his skills and interest working part-time at Radio Shack where he began in customer service and quickly found himself serving as the tech specialist. One of the projects he is most proud of was revising the step by step manual for the entire Helpdesk. His next great accomplishment will be his graduation this May.



The practitioner of the year award was given to Melissa Faulkner, Director of Cooperative Education and Internships in The Center for Career Development at Montclair State University (MSU) and President of New Jersey Association of Colleges and Employers (NJACE). In her role at MSU, she focuses on growing co-op and internship opportunities for all students. MSU has a unique structure including a university wide Center for Career Development as well as career services directors for each individual college. While this type of decentralized structure can be challenging, Melissa leverages relationship building and collaboration in working with colleagues on the shared goal of providing co-op and internship opportunities that will help MSU students explore careers and gain experience to be competitive in their post-graduation pursuits.

In her role as President of NJACE, Melissa worked tirelessly on the historic merger of NJCEIA and NJACE. Once the membership of both organizations expressed their support through voting on the initiative, she diligently worked toward achieving this goal. Collaborating with Christine Cervelli, President of NJCEIA and Bob Franco, Past President of NJACE, a transition plan was put into place and the reality that this merger could be achieved by academic year 2015-2016 began to take shape. Melissa is deserving of this award both as a leader at her institution but also a leader in the field and will be part of the legacy that has led to the creation of NJC3.

NJCEIA salutes all the award winners and nominees for their hard work and dedication. We also appreciate and thank Amanda Choo of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Denise Schmidt of County College of Morris and Dominique Clarke of New Jersey Institute of Technology for serving on the awards selection committee.