



United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 2

# **2017 ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPION AWARDS**

## **2016 PRESIDENT'S ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH AWARDS**

May 19, 2017

### **PROGRAM**

**~ WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS ~**

Eric Schaaf  
Regional Counsel

**~ GUEST SPEAKER ~**

Dr. Maida Galvez  
Director, EPA Region 2 Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit

**~ PRESENTATION OF AWARDS ~**

Eric Schaaf  
Regional Counsel

Anahita Williamson, Ph.D.  
Director of the Division of Environmental Science and Assessment

## **2017 ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPION AWARDS**

Environmental Champion Award recipients are recognized for the high level of their accomplishments in protecting the environment in EPA Region 2, which includes New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and eight Indian Nations.

Awardees dedicate countless hours, both professionally and personally, to reach this goal. Since it is not possible to address all of the contributions each award recipient has made, the citations merely highlight the efforts recognized by this award.

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## **2016 PRESIDENT'S ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH AWARDS**

The President's Environmental Youth Awards program promotes awareness of our nation's natural resources and encourages positive community involvement. Since 1971, the President of the United States has joined with EPA to recognize young people across the U.S. for protecting our nation's air, water, land, and ecology. Every year, one outstanding project from each EPA region is selected for national recognition.

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*EPA congratulates all award recipients for their accomplishments and wishes them success in their continuing efforts on behalf of the environment.*

**~ GUEST SPEAKER ~**

***Dr. Maida Galvez***

***EPA Region 2 Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit***

Dr. Maida Galvez is currently an Associate Professor in the Departments of Environmental Medicine and Public Health and Pediatrics at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. She directs the Region 2 Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (NJ, NY, PR and USVI) and practices General Pediatrics. She currently serves as the Assistant Director of Community Engagement for the Mount Sinai Clinical and Translational Science Award and also serves as the Assistant Director of the NIEHS P30 Transdisciplinary Center for Early Environmental Exposures Community Outreach and Engagement Core. She is a member of the CDC/APHA National Environmental Health Partnership Council and is past president of District II Chapter 3 American Academy of Pediatrics. She is a recipient of a 2016 Region 2 EPA Environmental Champions Award.

## 2017 ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPION AWARDS

### ***Ada Miranda***

#### ***Acción Didáctica Ambiental***

San Juan, Puerto Rico

For two years, Ms. Miranda has taught in Syracuse University's Generating Replicable Environmental Education Networks in Puerto Rico (GREEN-PR) program for Sustainable Materials Management internships. Through GREEN-PR, she has helped create recycling systems, held reuse workshops, established composting areas and established both edible and medicinal school gardens, all while directly involving the other teachers and the students' parents. Ms. Miranda is an educator and an active environmental leader teaching others to become environmental stewards for the future.

### ***Alycia Gilde***

#### ***CALSTART***

Brooklyn, New York

As Northeast Regional Director for CALSTART, Ms. Gilde actively promotes sustainable transportation solutions that significantly reduce emissions from mobile sources, including the management of the \$19M New York State Energy Research & Development Association's truck replacement program. Ms. Gilde has also joined forces with the Northeast Diesel Collaborative to improve regional air quality; she leads the Northeast Clean Freight Corridors initiative, which promotes the advancement of high-efficiency and low to zero emissions alternative fuel technologies across all modes of transportation.

### ***"Am I Recyclable?" Campaign***

#### ***Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority***

Utica, New York

The "Am I Recyclable?" Campaign, created by the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority in 2015, was designed to clear up confusion about recycling. Through a mobile web application, search engine marketing, social media marketing and electronic billboards, "Am I Recyclable?" allows users to search proper recycling or disposal protocols of thousands of different items.

### ***Ana Baptista***

#### ***Ironbound Community Corporation***

Newark, New Jersey

Ms. Baptista grew up in the Ironbound section of Newark where she was part of the environmental justice struggles that later shaped her professional and

academic interests. She brings a passion to her work and the knowledge of how living in a specific locale can impact health. In 2014, she was instrumental in mobilizing parents to push back against the idling of diesel trucks in front of a school, playing a key role in getting a three-minute idling law passed in New Jersey.

***Benjamin Delisle***  
***Jersey City Redevelopment Agency***  
Jersey City, New Jersey

Mr. Delisle has been the Director of Development for the Jersey City Redevelopment Agency since the mid-2000s. He was instrumental in the assessment, cleanup and redevelopment of Berry Lane Park, a 17.5-acre property that consisted of nine Brownfield sites, a State Hazardous Waste Site and a State Superfund site. He is currently managing the Dwight-Ocean cleanup site to be redeveloped into a low- and moderate-income residence for 64 families with preferential treatment for veterans and commercial space beneath the apartments.

***Benjamin Keularts***  
***USVI Department of Planning and Natural Resources***  
Frederiksted, U.S. Virgin Islands

In his role managing the Water Pollution Control Program at the Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Mr. Keularts has made a lasting impact on water quality. When EPA increased the level of oversight in the USVI, Ben redrafted and reissued major permits in order to incorporate EPA comments and suggestions and coordinated the USVI's priority permit and backlog commitments. His dedication has helped ensure that EPA and the USVI have a strong partnership and can effectively achieve our joint mission of protecting water quality.

***Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation (CELf)***  
Chappaqua, New York

The Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation focuses on strengthening teaching skills and administrative practices that help teach students to recognize and make decisions based on their understanding of the interconnections between a healthy environment, a vibrant economy and just social structures. Since 2003, CELF has worked with more than 8,000 teachers and school leaders, reaching more than 800,000 students from 2,800 schools.

***Christina Chanes***

***University of the Virgin Islands, Cooperative Extension Services - Water Ambassador Program***

St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

The Water Ambassador Program is a hands-on, citizen science-based program funded by the Virgin Islands Water Resources Research Institute that focuses on encouraging youth to become advocates for water as a resource. In the past two years, the Water Ambassador Program has helped to increase the literacy of youth in the area of hydrology, agriculture and health by exposing more than 1,000 youth territory-wide to six lessons about water conservation and water resources, including water testing, collection and storage.

***Deborah Nagin***

***New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Healthy Homes Program***

New York City, New York

As Director of the Healthy Homes Program for the New York City Department of Health, Ms. Deborah Nagin is a dedicated champion of children's environmental health, not only for New York City, but the greater metropolitan region and nation as a whole. In 2016, the Healthy Homes Program worked to reduce environmental hazards, including lead hazard and/or asthma trigger reduction in 1,265 residences through pest enforcement, primary prevention inspections for lead-based paint hazards and responding to complaints of unsafe work practices.

***Deborah Zwany***

***US Department of Justice, Eastern District of New York***

Brooklyn, New York

Ms. Zwany's hard work, perseverance, and steadfast dedication have resulted in safer drinking water and a cleaner environment for New Yorkers. Ms. Zwany worked for nearly 20 years to enforce the Safe Drinking Water Act and ensure New York City complied with the filtration requirements of the Surface Water Treatment Rule, ultimately providing more than one million New Yorkers with safe drinking water. This case remains the largest successful action ever taken by EPA against a public water system.

**Emma Lopez & Dale Jones, Vineland Health Department**  
**Vineland Fire Department**  
City of Vineland, New Jersey

During EPA's 2016 emergency response at the South Jersey Ice and Cold Storage site in Vineland, New Jersey, Dale Jones and Emma Lopez played a critical role coordinating public outreach and protection, while the Vineland Fire Department provided EPA with 24-hour hazmat response readiness to perform emergency rescue in the event of an on-site chemical medical emergency. The response resulted in the successful removal of 8,000 pounds of potentially harmful anhydrous ammonia gas from a facility in the middle of a residential neighborhood.

**Eric Helms**  
**Naval Weapons Station Earle**  
Colts Neck, NJ

Naval Weapons Station (NWS) Earle, an East Coast ordnance storage and transportation facility, started the Holistic Shoreline Management and Resiliency Program following Hurricane Sandy. Under this program, they are taking a multi-pronged approach and conducting several synergistic shoreline restoration and protection projects. It is designed to improve habitats by increasing water flow within salt marshes, utilizing green infrastructure tactics to supplement traditional flood response, and minimizing stagnant water to reduce mosquito populations without the use of pesticides.

**Frank Cummings**  
**The C.O.R.E. Foundation**  
St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands

To reverse the growing number of the invasive Lion Fish species in the Virgin Islands, Mr. Cummings has voluntarily certified over 130 divers to carry the proper equipment and identify hot spots to remove the Lion Fish one by one. If left unchecked, the Lion Fish stands to eradicate many marine species and kill the coral reefs. Mr. Cummings' continuous efforts to maintain certified volunteers, boating equipment, supplies, and a dedication to seek donations keep The CORE Foundation's Lion Fish Project afloat.

**Gary Kirkmire**  
**City of Rochester, Dept. of Neighborhood and Business Development**  
Rochester, NY

As the Director of the Office of Inspection and Compliance Services, Mr. Kirkmire has been instrumental in the implementation of the City of Rochester's lead-based paint poisoning prevention ordinance. In nearly 11

years since the law was passed, over 129,000 inspections were conducted, and lead poisoning in children under the age of six decreased by 85 percent. Through innovation and strong leadership skills, Mr. Kirkmire has built one of the best proactive lead poisoning prevention programs in the country.

***Gredia Huerta-Montañez***

***Center for Research on Early Childhood and Development in Puerto Rico (CRECE)***

Guaynabo, Puerto Rico

Dr. Huerta- Montañez is well-known throughout Puerto Rico for managing clinical cases of childhood lead poisoning and providing top care and coordination to families dealing with the aftermath of pervasive lead exposure. Since 2012, she has served as the first clinical Environmental Pediatrics Fellow for the Puerto Rico Pediatric Environmental Center in San Juan. Her work in Arecibo triggered a special interest in environmental factors that influence children's developmental and behavioral health and she is currently working to promote Integrated Pest Management practices in public and private schools.

***Groundwork Hudson Valley***

Yonkers, New York

Groundwork Hudson Valley works to restore brownfields into public parks to promote healthy outdoor activities for children and adults. They led the Saw Mill River Daylighting Project in Yonkers, restoring a river that was previously covered with concrete and recreating it as a park with 13,775 square feet of aquatic habitat and informative signs about the new ecosystems. Through educational exhibits, visitors can learn about the river's history and the various ways human activity has affected its ecology over the past 400 years.

***Harith Wickrema***

***Island Green Living Association***

St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands

With landfills at near-capacity and stormwater runoff closing beaches and threatening water supply, Mr. Wickrema has instituted a multi-pronged approach to expanding recycling and improving waste management while supporting local businesses and the community. His many accomplishments include establishing an aluminum can collection/crushing program, initiating a sustainability curriculum in schools to teach students about the importance of recycling, gardening and composting, and spearheading legislation that bans plastic bags, mandates source separation and imposes a bottle deposit to encourage recycling.



***Hospital General de Castañer, Inc.***

Adjuntas, Puerto Rico

The rural Hospital General de Castañer serves a population of approximately 6,000 inhabitants, of which 80 percent are agricultural workers. In 2008, the hospital developed a program to educate its community on the health impacts of exposure to pesticides, sending the hospital's personnel directly to farms, churches, and community centers to teach the workers how to protect themselves. Their work makes a difference in the lives of people that would otherwise have little or no access to this information and care.

***James Capasso***

***City of Trenton***

Trenton, NJ

Mr. Capasso manages the Brownfields Environmental & Redevelopment Program for the City of Trenton and has an ongoing reputation of meeting important public health, environmental and economic goals. The City of Trenton has produced more Brownfields cleanups than all other EPA Brownfields grantees in Region 2 combined. This has a tremendous impact on protecting sensitive subgroups, such as unborn children, other children, expecting mothers, the elderly, the infirmed, the impoverished, minorities and the general public.

***James Holland***

***Shannon's Fly & Tackle Shop***

Califon, NJ

Mr. Holland is a High School teacher and conservationist. He stocks the South Branch of the Raritan River with trout to help maintain the depleting populations and educates the community about stream life diversity and the importance of water quality. He writes a column in *The Black River Journal* called, "What's Hatching," which blends his fly-fishing knowledge with the importance of river conservation, and he donates trout to a program dedicated to the rehabilitation of disabled military veterans through fly fishing.

***Joseph DiMura***

***New York State Department of Environmental Conservation***

Albany, NY

Mr. DiMura and his staff were essential in developing regulations to implement the Sewage Pollution Right to Know Act. Under this regulation, a notification system was created whereby New York State municipalities utilize the NY-ALERT system to provide real-time notifications regarding the release of untreated or partially treated sewage to State waters. Such notifications

help the public avoid contact with waterbodies that may contain bacteria that can cause illness while boating, fishing or swimming.

***Karl Callwood***

***Friends of Mandahl, Inc.***

St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

Mr. Callwood is an environmental heritage researcher and a professional photographer specializing in underwater photography in the U.S. Virgin Islands. One of his significant contributions has been with the Friends of Mandahl, Inc. in the fight to protect the precious ecosystem of Mandahl Bay from the threat of destructive development. Mandahl Bay is a safer place because of Karl's countless hours of research, photographing and educating the public about saving the ocean, coral reefs and the endangered species that cannot fight for themselves.

***Long Island Chapter of The Nature Conservancy***

Cold Spring Harbor, New York

The Long Island Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC Long Island) has contributed and supported efforts to address excess nutrient pollutant load to Long Island ground and surface waters. In 2016, TNC Long Island created and produced 15 short videos that highlight and explain water quality issues and the sources of Long Island nitrogen pollution. These videos provide simple and accessible explanations of the sources and paths of nutrient and nitrogen loads to Long Island's ground and surface waters.

***Mark Martin Bras***

***Vieques Conservation and Historical Trust***

Vieques, Puerto Rico

As the Director of Community Relations & Field Research at the Vieques Conservation and Historical Trust, Mr. Martin uses his extensive scientific knowledge and background as well as contagious passion to participate in scientific endeavors while spreading awareness of ecological issues to inspire positive change in the Vieques community. He leads efforts to protect, monitor and educate about Mosquito Bay, the largest bioluminescent bay on earth. He also created the MANTA program, a youth education initiative involving recreation and hands-on learning.

**Mark Shriver and Thomas Hersey, Jr.**  
**Western New York Sustainable Business Roundtable**  
Buffalo, NY

The Western New York Sustainable Business Roundtable is a collaboration of more than 70 businesses and organizations committed to creating sustainability plans and initiatives in their own operations. Supporting its members through workshops and expos, the Sustainable Business Roundtable has hosted more than 20 training events, providing information to hundreds of participants. In addition, their members have conserved 182,482 gallons of water, reduced nearly eight million pounds of solid waste and prevented more than 26,000 pounds of hazardous emissions.

**Meghan Wren**  
**Bayshore Center at Bivalve**  
Port Norris, NJ

Ms. Wren founded the Bayshore Center at Bivalve to motivate people to take care of the environment, history and culture of New Jersey's Bayshore Region through education, preservation and example. She restored the 1928 Oyster Schooner A. J. Meerwald, which is now a classroom on the water where visitors can enjoy the beauty of the Delaware Bay and other New Jersey coastal waters while they learn how to ensure they are maintained for future generations.

**Michael G. Ciaravino**  
**City of Newburgh**  
Newburgh, NY

In his role as City Manager for the City of Newburgh, Mr. Ciaravino has been a champion for Environmental Justice, raising the Washington Lake perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) water contamination from a local drinking water issue to a regional watershed contamination issue. When PFOS was discovered in the water, Mr. Ciaravino followed his instinct and declared a State of Emergency. Since then, he has worked tirelessly to ensure safe and clean drinking water and access to blood monitoring for the residents of Newburgh.

**New Jersey Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership**  
Newark, New Jersey

The New Jersey Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (NJCWRP) is a public-private initiative aimed at restoring, preserving, enhancing and protecting aquatic habitats throughout New Jersey. NJCWRP brings together corporations, nonprofit organization, and government agencies to contribute

to crucial state wetlands and aquatic habitats projects. Since its inception in 2003, NJCWRP has received more than \$300,000 in contributions and in-kind services from its partners, resulting in projects totaling more than \$8.5 million and preserving more than 520 acres and 17 stream miles.

***New York Lawyers for the Public Interest***

New York, New York

The New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI) was instrumental in convincing the City of New York to accelerate its timeline for removing old lighting that contained polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), a cancer-causing chemical, from public schools. In 2011, the City announced a voluntary plan to replace PCB lighting throughout all City schools within 10 years. NYLPI efforts led the city to cut the timeline in half, and PCB-free lighting was installed in 883 school buildings by December 31, 2016.

***Paco López-Mújica***  
***Arrecifes Pro Ciudad***

Carolina, Puerto Rico

Beginning in 2005, Paco López-Mújica spearheaded Arrecifes Pro Ciudad's efforts to create the Coral Reef Reserve at Isla Verde, which was ultimately designated in 2012. Working with local agencies, Mr. López established an on-site informational center at the reserve that educates residents and visitors of the different sources of pollution affecting the area and what they can do to help. Additionally, Mr. López has worked collaboratively with local organizations to address water pollution by implementing water monitoring and used cooking oil collection programs.

***PANAS (Proyecto Ambiental de Nuestros Amigos de la Superior)***

Ponce, Puerto Rico

Proyecto Ambiental de Nuestros Amigos de la Superior (PANAS) is a student group that works with younger children and the larger community to promote environmentally sustainable behavior. The group enriches science curriculum using games and workshops, educating younger students about environmental priorities in Puerto Rico, such as recycling, composting, and water conservation. In 2015, PANAS received many local and national acknowledgments, including an honorable mention for the EPA Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators.

***Para La Naturaleza***

San Juan, Puerto Rico

Para La Naturaleza is a nonprofit unit of the Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico, working to increase the amount of protected lands in Puerto Rico. EPA is recognizing Para La Naturaleza for its notable citizen science projects, which encourage citizen participation in scientific research projects. In 2008, the organization conducted six citizen science projects, and since then, the projects have only grown in number and in size. In 2015, Para La Naturaleza held over 1,500 volunteer events, which totaled over 77,300 volunteer hours.

***Partnership for the Delaware Estuary***

Wilmington, Delaware

The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary is a non-profit organization and host for the Delaware Estuary Program that leads efforts to improve the tidal Delaware River and Bay, spanning Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Under the notable leadership of Executive Director Jennifer Adkins, Outreach Director Lisa Wool, and Science Director Dr. Danielle Kreeger, the Partnership has advanced its reputable science and outreach programs.

***Puerto Rico Tourism Company******Sustainable Tourism Division***

Old San Juan, Puerto Rico

The Sustainable Tourism Division of the Puerto Rico Tourism Company (PRTC) provides information to hoteliers in Puerto Rico on a variety of topics including energy efficiency, water conservation, electronics recycling and food waste reduction, along with managing a green lodging certification program. The PRTC's efforts to improve the environmental performance of the hospitality sector have previously received the Caribbean Tourism Organization's top sustainable tourism award and an award from the World Tourism Organization.

***Waterfront Stewardship Program******Randall's Island Park Alliance***

New York, New York

Randall's Island Park Alliance's Waterfront Stewardship Program is a free, educational field-trip program that teaches children about the coastal and estuarine ecology of Randall's Island. The program offers intensive, hands-on opportunities for over 4,200 New York City public school students to visit and study the saltwater marshes and freshwater wetlands. The Program annually

hosts over 1,000 volunteers and engages a total of 9,700 people through its outreach and programs, including birding and oyster garden programs.

***Sally Rubin***

***Great Swamp Watershed Association***

Morristown, New Jersey

Sally Rubin has served as Executive Director of the Great Swamp Watershed Association (GSWA) since 2008. In this role, she oversees the organization's efforts to conduct water quality monitoring and improvement programs in the Great Swamp-Passaic River watersheds in New Jersey. Each year, Ms. Rubin hosts a GSWA annual gala fundraiser that typically grosses over \$100,000. In 2014, she formed the Great Swamp Passaic Municipal Alliance, a networking platform that educates policymakers about environmental issues in Somerset and Morris County.

***Shirley Nicholas***

Lockport, New York

Shirley Nicholas served as a critical partner to EPA in the selection of a cleanup remedy for the Eighteen Mile Creek Superfund Site in Lockport, New York. In August 2013, EPA rolled out its proposed plan for the cleanup, which included placing a protective cap on nearby residential sites. Knowing the area was prone to flooding and at risk for recontamination, Ms. Nicholas advocated instead for buyout and relocation. When EPA finalized the cleanup plan in December 2013, the plan included the purchase, relocation and soil excavation of six residential properties.

***Springline Architects***

U.S. Virgin Islands

Springline Architects is an architecture firm in the U.S. Virgin Islands that has taken a lead in sustainable building construction. The firm's home office was the first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) platinum building in the USVI; the firm hosts public tours of the home office to educate local builders and the community on sustainable design and LEED accreditation. The firm offers comprehensive designs that focus on drainage controls, water runoff treatment and clean energy, among other environmentally-friendly models.

***St. Thomas Bat Team***

U.S. Virgin Islands

The St. Thomas Bat Team is a group of local volunteers that conducts education and outreach on local bat species. Over the past ten years, the team has organized an annual "Meet the Bats" event where the public is invited to visit a study site to learn about bats and their importance. The team conducts "Bat Labs" at schools to educate students about bat tagging and conservation efforts and, additionally, provides guidance to community members with unwanted bats in their homes.

***Telecom Pioneers, Chapter 99, and Ericsson***

Lebanon, NJ

In 2013, five Ericsson, Inc. employees began leading the effort to collect and donate Ericsson office supplies in order to prevent solid and electronic waste from entering landfills. Through 2016, their efforts inspired 122 employees to volunteer and collect over 174 tons of office supplies, equipment, and furnishings, which were then donated to 225 nonprofits. Today, these dedicated women continue to collect and donate supplies and are working with other Ericsson offices to implement their processes and techniques.

***Tony David******St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Environment Division***

Akwesasne, New York

Tony David spearheaded the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's effort to successfully remove the 330-foot-long Hogansburg Dam in September 2016. This dam was the first impassable barrier to fish on the St. Regis River and blocked fish migration and impeded natural flow patterns for over 85 years. The dam removal opened up 555 river and stream miles, restoring critical spawning and nursery habitat for fish species in the St. Regis River and the larger St. Lawrence River system.

***Town of Canandaigua, New York***

Over the past few years, the Town of Canandaigua has taken several steps to protect Canandaigua Lake and to become more sustainable. In 2015, the Town improved its municipal code to require more pervious surfaces on lakeside properties, and in 2016, the Town drafted a law to address faulty septic systems. Additionally, the Town worked with farmers to reduce runoff and erosion, helped landowners protect their land from future development, and passed a law to streamline the solar panel permitting process.

***Vanessa Altieri***

***US Drug Enforcement Administration Northeast Laboratory***

New York, New York

Vanessa Altieri is the Team Leader for the Environmental Management Team (EMS) at the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's Northeast Laboratory. In this capacity, Ms. Altieri goes above and beyond to ensure laboratory compliance with environmental regulations. In 2016, Ms. Altieri and the EMS team spearheaded an effort to more effectively manage the laboratory's electronic waste, donating 24 pieces of used electronics to schools and universities and recycling over 3,200 pounds of electronic equipment.

***Zoie Napolitano***

Oceanside, New York

Zoie Napolitano spurred to action her state senator, dozens of local residents, elected officials, and other organizations to clean up Silver Lake Park in Baldwin, NY. Noticing a pollution problem in her local park, Ms. Napolitano wrote State Senator Todd Kaminsky to ask for assistance in cleaning up the park. In September 2016, Senator Kaminsky and Ms. Napolitano organized a successful volunteer cleanup of Silver Lake Park and a second cleanup at nearby Lofts Pond Park a few months later.



## 2016 PRESIDENT'S ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH AWARDS

### ~ Region 2 Winner ~

#### ***Traposquitoes***

#### ***“Creating a Mosquito Trap Using By-Products of Compost and Solar”***

Christa McAuliffe School (P.S. #28)

Jersey City, New Jersey

Understanding that mosquitoes carry diseases, three eighth-grade females decided to create a new-and-improved mosquito trap as part of their school's STEM initiative. Karen Ayoub, Karen Mateo, and Layaly Saleh developed a solar-powered mosquito trap that uses compost by-products (carbon dioxide and heat) as a mosquito attractant. With this trap design, the team hopes to improve upon the largely-unchanged traps currently offered and bring public attention to the fact that there are environmentally-friendly alternatives to the expensive traps on the market today.

### ~ Honorable Mention ~

#### ***Agri-Environmental Squad***

#### ***“Wait...this wasn't grown with soil?”***

West Caldwell Tech School

West Caldwell, New Jersey

Students at West Caldwell Tech School established a gardening and donation program in order to promote awareness about healthy food nutrition. Because their communities do not offer community greenhouses, gardens or quality grocery stores, the students established a program in collaboration with the Culinary Arts and Food Service program. During their class period, they grow, harvest, clean, and cut produce and donate the vegetables to culinary arts students, staff from the Food Service, and St. John's Soup Kitchen in Newark.