

NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

County Government with a Unified Voice!

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RICK GARDNER NAMED FREEHOLDER OF THE YEAR

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(Trenton) The New Jersey Association of Counties presented Warren County Freeholder Rick Gardner with the “Maurice Fitzgibbons Freeholder of the Year Award” at its 64th annual celebration of county government last week. The award is named after long-time Hudson County Freeholder and former NJAC President Maurice Fitzgibbons, who passed away in 2011.

“Rick Gardner is an extraordinary gentleman, who is well deserving of this award for his leadership, enthusiasm, and commitment to delivering essential services in a cost effective manner that has truly benefitted county governments throughout the State,” said NJAC President and Monmouth County Clerk Claire French.

NJAC also presented Senator Jim Whelan and Assemblyman Declan O’Scanlon with “Legislative Leadership Awards”; and Atlantic County Counsel Jim Ferguson, Salem County Welfare Director Kathy Lockbaum, Monmouth County Supervising Drafting Technician Spencer Keats, and Hunterdon County Clerk Mary Melfi with “County Service Awards.” The nation’s only county vocational-technical school cook-off challenge once again stole the show as culinary arts students from Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, Hudson, Mercer, Monmouth, Ocean, Somerset, and Warren counties competed for titles in taste, creativity, and food presentation. Hudson County repeated as champion in the People’s Choice Category with Ocean County earning a silver medal and Monmouth County bronze.

“Congratulations to all of our award winners - especially to the incredibly talented culinary arts students, who worked very hard to prepare outstanding dishes of black bean and chorizo soup shooters, braised lamb empanadas, Thai curry crab cakes, and much more, which made it next to impossible to pick a winner,” commented French.

NJAC is committed to advocating for legislation, regulations, and policy directives that empower county governments to operate more effectively and efficiently. As a non-partisan organization that represents the only true regional form of government in the State with a unified and proactive voice, NJAC is dedicated to advancing innovative programs and initiatives that enhance the level of service provided and save valuable taxpayer dollars. Please visit our website at www.njac.org for additional details.

