



ALLEGHENY COUNTY

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Lucchino Distinguished Service Award Presented to Joe Gavlik

PITTSBURGH – County Executive Rich Fitzgerald and County Manager William D. McKain CPA yesterday announced that the county has presented the Frank J. Lucchino Distinguished Service Award to Mr. Joseph Gavlik, Chief Information Officer of the Division of Computer Services. This is the seventh Distinguished Service Award presented by the county since the program was re-instituted in 2013.

“Joe’s guidance and input has been integral in the improvements and advancements that have been made in the county’s information technology efforts,” said Fitzgerald. “He kept the department alive and functioning during difficult periods with a dedication and commitment that has been unmatched. His work ethic and unique leadership style has enabled the division and this county to thrive.”

CIO Gavlik has worked for the county since November 1970, and was a seasonal employee the summer of 1969, bringing his years of service to nearly 50 years. Starting as a messenger in the county’s Bureau of Systems and Computer Services, Joe was employed in the field before the county had ever purchased its first computer. His job was to messenger cards and printed reports back and forth between the County Office Building and Aspen Computer. In 1973, he became a computer operator. Motivated and self-taught, he quickly took on more responsibilities and was promoted to shift supervisor. As he continued to develop his skills, Joe received additional promotions with increasing responsibilities including Operations Analyst, Systems Supervisor of Applications Group, Assistant Manager of Operations, Manager of Technical Support, Manager of Technical Services, Deputy Chief Information Officer, and to his current position as Chief Information Officer in 2013.

“I have always thought highly of Judge Lucchino a mentor and have been honored to present this award in his name each year. It is my sincere pleasure to give it to Joe Gavlik this year,” said McKain. “Joe has always made himself available to us - weekends, nights, and holidays, it doesn’t matter. And he’s probably heard the craziest stories from all us – from leaving an iPad on the top of a car, running over our phone with a car, and finding new error messages that no one has heard of before – and yet, he tackled it all and did everything he could to ensure that we are up and running again. His service to this county exemplifies the term ‘public servant’ and we have been privileged to have him as an employee for all these years.”

CIO Gavlik was surprised this afternoon in the Gold Room, where he thought he was responding to an issue with the WiFi in the room. When he ran out of another meeting and hurried into the Gold Room, he instead found County Executive Fitzgerald, County Manager McKain, other members of the administration, Computer Services employees, and his wife, two sons and other family members. Following remarks, CIO Gavlik was presented with a county proclamation, a glass paperweight depicting the Allegheny County Courthouse, tickets to an upcoming Pittsburgh Penguins game and will be presented with a formal plaque with a photograph from the presentation.

Joe and his wife, Deborah, live in West Mifflin. They have two sons and five grandchildren.

Previous winners have included:

2013	Dr. Robert Levine Medical Examiner’s Office
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2014	Peter D. Schepis Budget & Finance Department
2015	Robert J. Lentz Controller's Office
2016	Clarence Hopson Parks Department
2017	Randolph (Randy) W. Brockington Human Services Department
2018	James P. Reardon Facilities Management Department

The Frank J. Lucchino Distinguished Service Award is presented annually to an employee or employee group who has exceeded all expectations, made a significant impact upon the county, and has represented the county admirably in his or her actions. The award is intended to recognize and reward exemplary performance by county employees as demonstrated through exceptional efficiency and productivity, customer service, or innovation and creativity. The award was named in honor of The Honorable Frank J. Lucchino, who had a long and distinguished career serving the citizens of Allegheny County. For 20 years, he was the county's elected Controller (1980-2000) before being elected to the Court of Common Pleas in 2000. He retired in 2016 as a Senior Judge on the Court.

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