

NEWS RELEASE

Ilene Shapiro – Summit County Executive
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Summit County dispatch team receives statewide recognition at Gold Star Awards

SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO—County Executive Ilene Shapiro is pleased to announce that Samantha Fikes, a member of the Summit Emergency Communications Center (SECC) Dispatch Team, was recently awarded “Trainer of the Year for the State of Ohio” at the Gold Star Awards in Columbus. In addition, team members from the SECC were recognized with nominations across eight award categories, reflecting the team’s skill and professionalism:

- **Dispatcher of the Year:** Jesse Fulks
- **Dispatch Team of the Year:** Alison Mason, Lisa Maxwell, and Victoria Teter
- **Gold Star Certificate:** Angie Mack
- **Dispatch Center of the Year:** SECC
- **Center Technology Leadership Award:** SECC
- **Supervisor of the Year:** Leigh-Ann Slaughter
- **Information/Radio Frequency Technologist of the Year:** David Best
- **Communication Center Manager of the Year:** David O’Neal

“We are so proud to have such a hardworking and passionate team at our dispatch center. We know the team is full of stars, and it is fulfilling to see them shine.” said Executive Shapiro. “Emergency communications play a vital role in public safety, and in a field where minutes matter, our team’s commitment to serving residents is remarkable. This award and the nominations recognize their incredible work and inspire us to continue building a culture of excellence at SECC.”

Each year, the Ohio chapters of the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) and the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) host the Gold Star Awards program to honor the achievements and contributions of the state’s telecommunicators. These dedicated professionals serve as the backbone of Ohio’s 9-1-1 system.

More information about the Gold Star Awards is available at <https://www.ohionena.org/ohio-gold-star-award-program>.

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