



Monday, December 20, 2010

Kearny student, Hoboken developer receive Governor's environmental awards

By [Katie Colaneri/The Jersey Journal](#)

Hudson County was well-represented last Wednesday as the Dept. of Environmental Protection honored 13 individuals, organizations and companies for their commitment to environmental conservation at the Governor's **Environmental Excellence Awards**.

Kearny High School student and crew team member **Fernanda Lois** was recognized for her efforts in cleaning up a portion of the Passaic River. Tired of rowing her crew boat through sludge and trash, Lois rallied members of her team to clean up a portion of the river in April 2009.

"Sometimes you just need to take a look around you," said Lois, 18, a senior. "If something bothers you, do something about it. It just takes one person's effort to make something a reality."

In 2010, Lois brought together two rival crew teams to help continue the cleanup. Two more cleanups are planned for this spring.

Joining Lois from Hudson County was the **Hoboken Brownstone Company** that brought in the award in Innovative Technology for its new green development in **Jersey City at the site of the former Van Leer chocolate factory**. The building will use 90 percent less energy than conventional buildings and emit fewer carbon emissions through geothermal and solar energy as well as other green technologies.

"Getting recognized for the work you're doing is always beneficial and always a nice thing," said Hoboken Brownstone co-founder Daniel Gans. "I think it's also very important that these types of awards are given out in that it allows people in society, Americans to see these other ideas that are out there so we can use less energy."

According to Gans, the building will be ready for tenants (over 480 of them) within two years.

Honorees traveled to the New Jersey State Museum in **Trenton** for the 11th annual ceremony where the winners of the various awards presented their accomplishments to **Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno**, former **Gov. Jim Florio** and over 100 former award-winners.



Courtesy of CAHN Communications

Left to right: Governor Jim Florio, Hoboken Brownstone Company principals George Vallone and Daniel Gans, and NJ DEP Commissioner Bob Martin at the Governor's Environmental Excellence Award ceremony on December 15.