

News Release



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For immediate release:
May 2, 2018

Burlington Vicinage to Hold Drug Court Graduation Ceremony

The Burlington Vicinage will honor 10 drug court graduates and 10 other participants who will move on to the next phase of the program on Friday, May 4 at 2 p.m. at the Burlington County Library, 5 Pioneer Blvd., Westampton.

Stephen O'Connor, a June 2012 graduate of the Burlington Vicinage drug court program, will be the keynote speaker. O'Connor completed his associate's degree at Rowan College at Burlington County while in the program and has since received his bachelor's degree in finance at The College of New Jersey in Ewing.

Superior Court Judge Christopher J. Garrenger, who presides over the vicinage's drug court program, will deliver remarks with Assignment Judge Ronald E. Bookbinder and Criminal Presiding Judge Jeanne T. Covert.

The ceremony celebrates the graduates' completion of a rigorous five-year program of comprehensive treatment, intensive supervision and strict accountability. This year's graduates have regained custody of their children, earned high school diplomas and maintained employment.

The Judiciary's drug court program operates within the Superior Court to address nonviolent drug addicted offenders. The program requires completion of four phases of intensive drug and alcohol treatment and recovery. This level of supervision permits the program to support the recovery process but also allows supervisors to react quickly to impose appropriate therapeutic sanctions or to reinstate criminal proceedings when participants do not comply.

The Burlington Vicinage drug court program has 253 participants. Since the inception of the vicinage's program in 2004, 163 men and women have graduated from the program and 22 children of participants have been born drug-free.

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