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Trial Court Administrator

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**Hudson Vicinage Drug Court to Hold Graduation Ceremony**

The Hudson Vicinage will celebrate the graduation of 19 drug court participants at a ceremony on Tuesday, July 19 at 12:30 p.m. in the William J. Brennan Jr. Courthouse, 583 Newark Ave., Jersey City.

Former Gov. James E. McGreevey, now the executive director of the Jersey City Employment and Training Program, will serve as the keynote speaker. Assignment Judge Peter F. Bariso Jr. also will address the graduates. Drug Court Judge Edward DeFazio will preside over the event.

Judiciary Voices in Unity, a choir composed of judges, attorneys, and court staff members, will perform.

The drug court program is a highly specialized team process within the existing Superior Court structure that relies upon a collaborative relationship between criminal justice officials and drug treatment professionals to assist non-violent drug offenders in rehabilitation. Drug court programs are rigorous, requiring completion of four phases during five years of intensive drug and alcohol treatment and testing. The program supports the recovery process but also allows supervisors to react swiftly to impose appropriate therapeutic sanctions or to reinstate criminal proceedings when participants do not comply with the program.

Graduates must meet all the requirements of the program, including maintaining one year of full-time employment and continuous sobriety, earning a GED or high school diploma and establishing a regular payment history on all court fines.

Since its establishment in 2004, there have been more than 1,300 participants in the vicinage's drug court program.

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