

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Burlington Vicinage to Hold Drug Court Graduation Ceremony**

The Burlington Vicinage will honor five drug court graduates and 15 other participants who will move on to the next phase of the program on Thursday, Oct. 12 at 2 p.m. at the Burlington County Library, 5 Pioneer Blvd., Westampton.

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.

Kenny Smith, a March 2016 graduate of the program, will be the keynote speaker. Smith is an addictions counselor at Rescue Mission in Trenton.

The ceremony will be held to celebrate 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 drug court program is a highly specialized team process within the existing Superior Court structure in which criminal justice officials and drug treatment professionals work together to assist nonviolent drug offenders in rehabilitation.

Since the inception of the vicinage's program in 2004, 158 men and women have graduated from the program and 18 children of participants have been born drug-free. There are more than 200 active participants in the program.

Reporters and photographers are invited to attend the ceremony.

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