

News Release



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Atlantic County Recovery Court Graduates Record Number of Participants

The Atlantic County recovery court will recognize the successes of 77 graduates during a ceremony on Tuesday, May 15, the largest graduation ceremony in the history of New Jersey's drug court program.

“Addiction is the greatest public health crisis of our lifetime. It intersects and impacts all of our lives and all of our families. It is an equal opportunity killer and destroyer of families. Recovery court is part of the solution. Our 77 graduates have come from the loneliness and isolation of their disease to a recovery that will take them to a better future,” said Superior Court Judge Mark Sandson, who heads the Atlantic/Cape May recovery court program.

The two-hour graduation, to be held at 1:30 p.m. at Atlantic Cape Community College in Mays Landing, marks the culmination of participants' three-year journey from addiction to recovery. The recovery court team, which is staffed by court personnel, attorneys, probation officers, substance abuse evaluators, and treatment professionals, supports participants through a critical balance of authority, supervision, and support. Staff works closely with participants to provide encouragement and react quickly to impose appropriate therapeutic sanctions or reinstate criminal proceedings when participants do not comply.

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.

“I am privileged to work with a team that is absolutely dedicated to the mission of saving the lives of those struggling with substance abuse issues. This ceremony not only highlights the amazing achievements of our participants, but it also is a testament to the hard work of the team in helping others change their lives,” said Recovery Court Coordinator Vicky Golas.

Since the inception of the drug court program in 2002, 178 participants have graduated.

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