

# News Release



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

The Burlington Vicinage will hold its 25<sup>th</sup> drug court commencement ceremony on Friday, Oct. 5 at 2 p.m. at the Burlington County Library, 5 Pioneer Blvd., Westampton.

In addition to the 19 graduates, 12 participants will advance to the final phase. Superior Court Judge Christopher Garrenger, who presides over the vicinage's drug court program, will host the ceremony and acting Assignment Judge Jeanne Covert will give remarks. Carmen Brown, a 2016 graduate of the program, will deliver the keynote address.

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 improve appropriate therapeutic sanctions or to reinstate criminal proceedings when participants do not comply.

Since the inception of the vicinage's program in 2004, 22 drug-free babies have been born to Burlington County participants, 17 parents have regained custody of minor children, and 96 percent of drug court participants are employed. There are 245 participants in the program.

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