

# News Release



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## **Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage to Celebrate Graduation of 143 Recovery Court Participants**

The Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage is holding recovery court graduation ceremonies this month for 143 participants who have completed the program.

The Atlantic County graduation is on Tuesday, June 25 at 1:30 p.m. at Atlantic County Institute of Technology, 5080 Atlantic Ave., Mays Landing. Cape May County's ceremony will be held on Wednesday, June 26 at 9:30 a.m. at Cape May County Technical High School, 188 Crest Haven Road, Cape May Court House.

“This year we have the largest number of graduates in New Jersey recovery court history. We have 143 people who are sober, working and, most importantly, have totally changed,” said Recovery Court Judge Mark Sandson. “Change is the most difficult thing there is, and recovery from addiction constitutes a fundamental change of the whole person.”

New Jersey Labor Commissioner Robert Asaro-Angelo, who will discuss employment as evidence of recovery and change, will give the keynote address at the Atlantic graduation.

“It's no secret our world is facing new challenges, new health crises, and it's up to all of us to begin looking at outside-the-box ideas and alternatives that will get us toward our goal of a healthy workforce,” Asaro-Angelo said.

Yolanda H. Allen, assistant director for the Office of Youth Programs at the Department of Labor, will be the keynote speaker at the Cape May County ceremony. Allen will discuss how jobs and job training are key components to stability for recovery court participants as well as for young people in New Jersey.

“Recovery court has proven to be an invaluable program by preparing its participants to be successful upon completion. The Department of Labor & Workforce Development remains committed to working collaboratively with our recovery court partners to ensure that these graduates have access to career development opportunities,” Allen said.

Stockton University and the Cape May County Sheriff’s Office will receive “Partner of the Year” presentations for their contributions to the success of the recovery court program.

Recovery courts operate within the existing Superior Court structure to treat nonviolent drug offenders. Recovery court programs are rigorous, requiring completion of four phases of intensive drug and alcohol treatment and testing. Participants comply with all treatment recommendations, gain employment, obtain a GED if not already attained, and demonstrate a payment of court fines.

The vicinage’s recovery court program has 840 participants.

To learn more about the vicinage’s recovery court program or the graduation ceremony, contact Atlantic County Recovery Court Coordinator Vicky Golas at 609-402-0100, ext. 47383 or Cape May County Recovery Court Coordinator Sherry Phillips at 609-402-0100, ext. 47444.

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