

# News Release



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## **Mercer Vicinage to Hold Drug Court Graduation**

The Mercer Vicinage will hold its spring drug court graduation ceremony on Tuesday, June 25 at 10 a.m. in the Special Proceedings Courtroom on the fourth floor of the Mercer County Criminal Courthouse, 400 S. Warren St., Trenton.

Superior Court Judge Timothy Lydon, who presides over the vicinage's drug court program, will address 17 graduates on their accomplishments. Assignment Judge Mary C. Jacobson will host the ceremony and Mercer County Executive Brian Hughes will address the graduates.

Ellen Purtell, program director of Daytop Crawford House, will give the keynote address. Crawford House provides an individualized program for women who are over the age of 18, homeless, indigent and drug- and alcohol-free.

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 the team to react swiftly to impose appropriate therapeutic interventions or to reinstate criminal proceedings when participants do not comply with the program. Drug court programs are rigorous, requiring intensive probation supervision, treatment, frequent drug testing, and court appearances.

Since its inception in 1999, the vicinage's drug court program has graduated more than 264 participants. It has 210 active participants.

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