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## **BURLINGTON VICINAGE PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Burlington Vicinage to Hold Two Drug Court Graduation Ceremonies**

The Burlington Vicinage will hold two drug court graduation ceremonies on Thursday, March 3, at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. in the Historic Olde Courthouse, 120 High St., Mount Holly.

Each ceremony will honor five graduates. The speaker for both ceremonies is 2014 drug court alumnus Landon Harker, who graduated from Rutgers University in December 2015 with a 4.0 GPA and now hopes to attend law school.

Burlington County's new drug court judge, Christopher J. Garrenger, will preside over the ceremonies.

"This program is about transforming lives," Garrenger said. "We've seen that in this graduating class. Two of the women who graduated delivered drug-free babies. Two others moved into management positions at their jobs. It is an honor to oversee this program."

Assignment Judge Ronald E. Bookbinder said, "Our vicinage is proud to host another graduation ceremony to celebrate the life-changing achievements of these graduates, as well as the drug court team members who work so hard to bring about positive outcomes for participants."

The drug court program is a highly specialized team process within the existing Superior Court structure that relies upon a unique, collaborative relationship between criminal justice officials and drug treatment professionals to treat non-violent drug offenders. Drug court programs are rigorous, requiring completion of four phases during five years of intensive drug and alcohol treatment and testing. Participants follow a tightly structured regimen of treatment and recovery.

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