

Judge Jerry Jacobi and The Clark County Drug Treatment Court Program will host its 17th graduation tomorrow, Thursday, March 22.

The Clark Superior Court No. 2 and Judge Jerry Jacobi operate one of only 27 adult drug courts in the state, certified by the Indiana Supreme Court. Since the program's inception, 184 participants have been admitted into the Drug Treatment Court. Seventy-seven participants have now graduated successfully.

On March 22, 10 participants will be honored for their rehabilitative efforts. These 10 participants represent mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, aunts and uncles, cousins, friends and co-workers. Their average age is 31 years of age. The national age average for graduating Drug court is 32.2 years of age. These 10 participants' drugs of choices were all in the nation's top six substances of abuse. These 10 participants represent 10 citizens who have now been clean and sober for at least 12 months. The average sobriety time for these 10 individuals is one year eight months and 10 days. This is equivalent to 607 days and counting.

Nationally, the average graduation rate for Drug Court is 57 percent; the Clark County Drug Treatment Court Program graduation rate stands at 64 percent. The National Drug Court Institute research shows that compared to other initiatives for drug-involved offenders Drug Courts more than doubled treatment retention and completion rates. And, nationwide, 75 percent of Drug Court graduates remain arrest-free at least two years after leaving the program.

The Drug Treatment Court Program graduation will begin at 3:30 p.m. in Clark Superior Court No. 2. A reception will immediately follow. The public is invited to attend.