

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
CIRCUIT COURT  
SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT

JANET R. HOLMGREN  
Presiding Judge  
Problem-Solving Courts Division



Winnebago County Courthouse  
Room 215  
Rockford, Illinois 61101  
Phone: 815-319-4805 Fax: 815- 516-2755

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Contact: Emily Behnke  
Deputy Court Administrator – Problem-Solving Courts Division  
(815) 319-4834

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY DRUG COURT TO CELEBRATE  
56<sup>th</sup> GRADUATION & 30 YEARS**

**Rockford, IL**—Judge Janet R. Holmgren, Presiding Judge of the Problem-Solving Courts Division, is pleased to announce that the Winnebago County Adult Drug Court will hold its **56<sup>th</sup>** graduation ceremony on **May 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at the Winnebago County Courthouse, Courtroom 311**. Nine Drug Court participants have successfully completed all of the Drug Court program requirements and will be honored at this graduation ceremony. Including these upcoming 9 graduates, a total of 780 participants have successfully completed Drug Court since the program began in 1996.

This event will also celebrate the Winnebago County Drug Court being in operation for 30 years and will feature the issuance of a proclamation, remarks from distinguished speakers and graduates, and presentation of a commemorative plaque. Drug Court, which began in 1996, is an intensive problem-solving court program that targets persons in the criminal justice system with substance use disorders. Participants voluntarily consent to participate in the program which provides them with a full continuum of substance use disorder treatment, mental health services and behavioral health interventions. A multi-disciplinary team of clinical and justice professionals closely supervise each participant’s compliance with treatment and probation supervision requirements and hold them accountable through frequent court appearances before Judge Holmgren, random and frequent drug testing, and intensive probation supervision.

“The purpose of Drug Court is to improve the quality of life for the individual participants, their families and our community by restoring them to a safe and sober lifestyle which in turn dramatically reduces the likelihood that they will commit new offenses because of their addiction,” stated Judge Holmgren. “Each of our graduates has a compelling story about the destructive impact and struggles and how they utilized the resources and supports of Drug Court to restore and rebuild their health and relationships with their families, keep and retain employment and/or pursue their education and overall, giving them the opportunities to be positive, contributing members of our community.”

For more information about Drug Court and this upcoming graduation ceremony, please feel free to contact Emily Behnke at [ebehnke@17thcircuit.illinoiscourts.gov](mailto:ebehnke@17thcircuit.illinoiscourts.gov).