



## Union County Public & Media Relations Office

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### News Release

## Union County DWI Treatment Court Program to Hold Graduation

**September 20, 2016, Monroe, NC** – The Union County DWI Treatment Court Program will hold its first DWI Treatment Court Graduate Recognition Dinner on Friday, Sept. 30 at 6 p.m. at South Piedmont Community College in Monroe.

Union County's DWI Treatment Court began in 2010 under the leadership of Judge Chris Bragg to more intelligently and aggressively address the problems judges experience with repeat drunk drivers coming through the court system. This is an evidence-based program dedicated to reducing recidivism and helping participants maintain sobriety. Union County's program is based on the National Association of Drug Court Professional's model ([www.nadcp.org](http://www.nadcp.org)).

Union County's DWI Court is one of only seven in the state, and since its inception, 27 Union County residents have graduated from the program. On Sept. 30, 24 graduates will be recognized.

It usually takes a participant at least one year to successfully complete the Treatment Court program. To graduate, participants must attend and engage in treatment, be drug-free and alcohol-free for a minimum of 120 days, and must attend community support meetings, such as AA, regularly. In the beginning, participants are required to attend court once every two weeks. Participants are drug and alcohol tested as well.

Unlike regular court, non-compliance with the treatment plan results in swift sanctions, including jail time. Progress in the program is closely monitored with assistance from the DA's Office, Probation, defense attorneys, treatment providers and a County-funded court coordinator.

Available data shows that most graduates do not reoffend, which means a decreased demand for jail space and safer roads for us all.

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