



News Release

FROM: Chambers of the Chief Judge
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Waukegan, Illinois

NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT RECEIVES AWARD

The Repatriate Demonstration Project and the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Court were recently presented with the Outstanding Service Project Award by the Coalition to Reduce Recidivism. The award was given in recognition and appreciation of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit's outreach efforts to assist repatriates, persons who are sentenced to probation or community corrections who volunteer to complete a structured program of discipline and education.

The Repatriate Demonstration Project is a collaboration of twelve agencies and volunteers who have developed a program to provide ex-offenders the opportunity to re-enter into society through education and the workforce. The program which consists of 64 hours of career development and 64 hours of computer training is provided by the College of Lake County at no cost to the county or to the students. Partners of the project provide supplemental training and assessments. As an additional incentive, repatriates are awarded 100 community service hours upon successful classroom completion.

Over 150 students have graduated since the Repatriate Project's inception in 2007. With the combined support of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit's Administrative Office, the State's Attorney's Office, and the Public Defender's Office, the project has been successful in achieving one of its major goals – reducing criminal arrests in Lake County.

Mary Charuhas, Executive Board Secretary for the Coalition to Reduce Recidivism, presented the award to Warren Thomas, the Repatriate Project coordinator and career development instructor at the College of Lake County, on behalf of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit.

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