

NEWS RELEASE: March 8, 2011

Greene County DWI Court named Academy Court

For the second time in three years, the Greene County DWI Court has been named an Academy Court by the National Drug Court Institute (NDCI), in partnership with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Formal announcement of the award will be **Friday, March 11, 10:30 a.m.** in the Greene County Judicial Courts Facility, Div. 4 Courtroom, 1010 Boonville Ave., Springfield, Mo. Speakers include Missouri Supreme Court Chief Justice William Ray Price; the Honorable Thomas Mountjoy, Greene County Presiding Judge; and the Honorable Peggy Davis, Greene County Drug Court/DWI Court Commissioner.

The Greene County DWI Court is one of four Academy Courts named after a rigorous multi-phase evaluation and a scoring process. Greene County first earned the three-year Academy Court designation in 2008. As an Academy Court, the Greene County serves as a training site and provides technical assistance for other communities interested in reducing DWI repeat offenses through use of DWI courts. The other courts named are in Athens, Ga., Newport Beach, Calif., and Holland, Mich.

The Greene County DWI Court uses accountability and long-term treatment to address the root causes of drunk driving: alcohol and other substance abuse. Participants are convicted DWI offenders who, rather than serving a jail or prison sentence, are placed under court-supervised probation. They are required to undergo intensive treatment and counseling, submit to frequent supervision and random drug and alcohol testing, obtain employment or vocational training and make regular appearances before a specially trained judge. Through DWI Court, participants learn how to become productive members of society. Graduates typically obtain vocational and educational training, maintain stable employment, mend broken family relationships, and, through sobriety, become positive role models for their children.

According to the Office of State Court Administrator, there are currently 3,000 participants in Drug or DWI Court in the State of Missouri. Approximately 2,660 of the participants have been diverted from serving a prison sentence in the Department of Corrections. The incarceration cost to the State of Missouri would be \$43 million per year. The total cost to operate Drug and DWI Courts is only \$16 million per year, therefore saving \$27 million per year for the taxpayers of the State of Missouri.

For more information, call the Honorable Peggy Davis, Greene County Drug Court/DWI Court Commissioner, or Marilyn Gibson, Drug Court/DWI Court Administrator, at 417-829-6159.

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