

# Tribal Drug Court program applauds graduate



**KIM GRAVELLE,  
DIRECTOR, UNIT I**

Hello, I hope all is well with

everyone after the busy holidays.

The topic I would like to discuss is our tribal Drug Court. I witnessed an individual graduate from the Drug Court program this past week. The pride he showed when accepting his completion certificate was very humbling.

When asked if he could give any advice he said you have to make up your mind to stay clean and make sure you have a support system you can call on when needed.

What this program does is when an individual is sentenced to Drug Court, they have a maximum jail sentence held in abeyance. The program takes

an average of 12 to 18 months to complete. Participants are drug tested three times a week, attend three AA/NA meetings a week, attend behavioral health appointments, participate in matrix intensive outpatient and Moral Revocation Therapy Group (which targets criminal thinking), completes budgeting classes, and participates in a cultural event during each phase. They also have to be employed or getting an education during this time. If they aren't employed, they have to be actively seeking employment.

If the participant is terminated from the program, their jail sentence will then be imposed.

On average, Drug Court has five to seven participants at any given time but have the capacity for more participants in the program.

Drug Court's goal is to make this program available to more members by working with state and/or federal courts to target members under those jurisdictions. This is an opportunity of a support system for our tribal members.

For more information regard-

ing this program, you can contact the Tribal Court at (906) 635-4923.

If you feel you have a substance abuse problem, please call the Sault Tribe Behavioral Health Department at (906) 635-6075.

If you have any questions or comments, you can contact me at (906) 203-1930 or at [kgravelle@saulttribe.net](mailto:kgravelle@saulttribe.net).

Thank you,  
Kim Gravelle