

Summit Academy OIC hosts Community Health Fair Open House for low income community residents

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Students from Summit Academy OIC, located at 935 Olson Memorial Highway, in Minneapolis are hosting a Community Health Fair Friday, October 15, 1 – 3 pm to educate low-income community residents and minorities about a variety of health issues including diabetes, heart disease, low birth weight prevention, sexually transmitted diseases and obesity.

These students will soon graduate as certified Community Health Workers (CHW). CHWs work at the grassroots level to increase access to healthcare services by educating individuals about disease prevention, bridging the gap that exists due to language and cultural differences, and teaching people how to navigate the current system. Summit Academy OIC is a Minneapolis-based nonprofit educational and vocational center that teaches individuals from economically depressed neighborhoods in the Twin Cities to become educated, employed, contributing members of the community.

“Unfortunately, there are great health disparities that exist in low-income communities due to barriers such as access to healthcare,” said Amanda Wasielewski, Lead Community Health Worker Instructor at Summit Academy OIC. “The CHW program is designed to decrease those disparities by educating students about preventative care so they can teach the communities they wish to serve.”

Community Health Fair participants will have access to free blood pressure checks and testing for sexually transmitted disease including HIV, as well as information about diabetes, nutrition, heart disease, low birth weight prevention and domestic abuse prevention. They also will be invited to play Health Fair Bingo for a chance to win grocery store gift cards.

This event is free and open to the public.