

On the homepage

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Nurses



Nurses begin voting on contract

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Summit Academy

Summit Academy CEO Louis King

Exec's laser focus helps minority training, hiring

Summit Academy's Louis King, a former Army officer, has made inroads for his trainees during the recession with a relentless but disciplined style.

Louis King, the veteran job-training executive, is starting to see results from his three-year, demonstration-to-boardroom campaign to raise the percentage of minority laborers on government-financed road, stadium and other public works projects.

King hammered out an agreement with Mortenson Construction that led to a minority-hiring surge that equaled about a quarter of the workers and trainees hired by subcontractors at the new Minnesota Twins ballpark and TCF Bank Stadium. Stock Roofing, which just completed the "green roof" on the city-owned Target Center, hired 30 graduates of King's Summit Academy OIC.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation has committed to work with winning contractors and trade unions to increase the percentage of people of color working on its road-and-transit projects to above 6 percent.

And Summit Academy, a north



Neal St. Anthony Columnist

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investigating prison fundraiser

Rare species



Who's looking after MN's threatened species?

Franken



Sen. Al Franken wags a bit sharper tongue

Minneapolis-based vocational-training institute, has reached agreement with Local 49, the heavy-equipment operators on road projects, to build and diversify their membership, as well as new partnerships with other unions.

Gainers and losers

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When King learned last summer that MnDOT contractors were lagging on minority hiring amid a boom in federal funding, he stepped up job-site demonstrations and appearances before legislative committees and TV cameras.

"MnDOT's first reaction was, 'Go away,'" King recalled. "We were respectful, but our people went to the Capitol and legislative hearings and took the chairs of some of the usual lobbyists and made our point. It was a 'set game.' The contractors could just engage in 'good-faith' efforts to find minority workers ... and just move on. These agreements we are reaching are bigger than Summit. It's about the system. And we're making the investment in change."

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No one gets left behind

They didn't work hard enough to keep up. Making excuses for lack of achievement accomplishes nothing.

posted by Redstar123 on Mar 2, 10 at 9:46 am |

3 of 7 people liked this comment.

Stereotype

"don't hire the right person, hire the person of color no matter what. what a bunch of crap" Unfortunately, there are people out there who will always believe that people of color are hired just because of their skin color, not education or experience. The majority of them are folks who failed in life and want to blame someone else for their own failures. Giving people of color their fair share of jobs is not unfair hiring practice. They earned it through hard work. Before you blame them, ask for their credentials.

posted by zubair on Mar 2, 10 at 10:19 am |

5 of 10 people liked this comment.

King hammered out an agreement with Mortenson Construction that led to a minority-hiring surge

Sounds kind of racist..."minority-hiring surge".

posted by zamsphere on Mar 2, 10 at 10:25 am |

6 of 8 people liked this comment.

THE BACKBONE OF AMERICA'S WORKFORCE

As Boomers begin to retire and the birthrate continues to decline for white middle class Americans, we will become more dependent on Latino, African American, Hmong, Somali and minorities from every ethnic background, age group and physical ability to step up and become educated and skilled at some profession or vocation. Our U.S. economy depends on it already. The standard of living that we have come to expect will not be possible without the support of these underprivileged and undeserved Americans. Wake up people...Get on the bandwagon and support these types of programs!

posted by raymond5737 on Mar 2, 10 at 11:16 am |

3 of 4 people liked this comment.

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Comments miss context, as usual

A minority hiring surge does not equal less qualified black people being hired before well-qualified whites. It means that minorities who previously did not have the know-how or skills to obtain those jobs are learning how to get them.

posted by kingchros on Mar 2, 10 at 1:48 pm |

4 of 4 people liked this comment.

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