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Friday, June 26, 2009

Minority Business

Louis King

Minority Business Executive

Minneapolis / St. Paul Business Journal - by [John Vomhof Jr.](#), Staff writer

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Baseball legend Jackie Robinson, who broke Major League Baseball's color barrier in 1947, once was quoted as saying, "A life is not important, except in the impact it has on other lives."



Louis King [View Larger](#)

By that standard, Louis King easily passes the test. As president and CEO of **Summit Academy OIC**, King has helped provide job training to thousands of Twin Cities men and guided them to good-paying jobs and productive lives. "We believe the best service program in the world is a job," King said.

King helped form Summit Academy in 1995, when he led a merger between two local nonprofits: the Twin Cities OIC and Two or More, where he worked at the time. Since then, Summit Academy has grown into one of the Twin Cities' leading nonprofit educational and vocational training centers. It offers job-training programs for construction, health care and administrative professions, as well as a youth program aimed at helping kids in school.

More than 300 adults and 200 children are enrolled this year. The majority of the job-training participants are unemployed black men in their mid-20s. Twenty percent have been convicted of a crime; 30 to 40 percent are parents. Many of the people go on to work jobs that pay \$40,000 a year, following 20 weeks or less of job training at Summit Academy.

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