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## SUMMIT ACADEMY OIC HOSTS HEALTH FAIR FOR LOW-INCOME COMMUNITY RESIDENTS

*October 15 Event To Offer Blood Pressure Screening, STD Testing and  
Information about Heart Disease, Diabetes, Obesity and More*

**MINNEAPOLIS** (September 15, 2010) Students from Summit Academy OIC are hosting a Community Health Fair on October 15 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.

The students are about to 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.

### **Community Health Fair**

**What:** Community Health Fair Open House  
**Time:** 1 – 3 p.m.  
**Date:** Friday, October 15  
**Location:** 935 Olson Memorial Highway, Mpls., MN 55405  
**Details:** Free and open to the public

### **About Summit Academy OIC**

Summit Academy OIC (SAOIC) is a nonprofit educational and vocational training center that empowers adults residing in the most economically depressed neighborhoods in the Twin Cities to become educated, employed, contributing members of the community. Focused on high-demand, high-growth industries, Summit’s results-oriented programs effect long-term change. Summit graduates are skilled and motivated workers who can stop drawing public assistance and start caring for their families, paying taxes and helping to stabilize and vitalize their communities. For more information, visit [www.saoic.org](http://www.saoic.org).

