



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Laura Telander Graf
ltgcommunications@comcast.net
651.698.4006

SUMMIT ACADEMY OIC TO RECOGNIZE 130 STUDENTS WHO OVERCAME OBSTACLES TO GRADUATE

*July 27 Ceremony to Honor Individuals Who Earned Training and Life Skills
Despite Difficult Backgrounds*

MINNEAPOLIS (July 15, 2010) On July 27 Summit Academy OIC will honor 130 students who chose to change their lives for the better by learning a skill that will enable them to find living-wage jobs to sustain themselves and their families. 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.

The graduation ceremony will be held from 6:30 – 8 p.m. on Tuesday, July 27 at Summit Academy OIC, 935 Olson Memorial Highway, in Minneapolis.

"I am so proud of these students who have learned that the value of knowledge trumps the value of hand-outs," said Louis King, Louis King, CEO of Summit Academy OIC. "No longer will they be a cost to society through social services or incarceration but instead contributing citizens that have a real stake in their communities."

Summit Academy OIC offers 20-week training programs in the high-demand fields of construction and healthcare. Programs include weatherization, heavy equipment operator training, sheet metal worker training, plumbing and community health worker training. Summit also provides vocational counselors, financial aid counselors and job placement specialists to ensure students succeed after graduating.

On average, students can go from earning an average of \$3,707 a year to an average of \$26,370 per year.

"We believe everyone has the ability to be self-sufficient, regardless of background, economic status or level of ability," King said. "We want to strengthen our communities by preparing these individuals to be successful in their roles as workers, parents and citizens."

WHAT: Summit Academy OIC Graduation Ceremony
WHEN: 6:30 – 8 p.m., Tuesday, July 27
WHERE: Summit Academy OIC
935 Olson Memorial Highway, Minneapolis
612.377.0150

For more information, visit www.saoic.org.

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.

###