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Contact:

Laura Telander Graf  
ltgcommunications@comcast.net  
651.698.4006

## **SUMMIT ACADEMY OIC LAUNCHES FIRST OF ITS KIND HEAVY EQUIPMENT TRAINING USING STATE-OF-THE-ART SIMULATORS**

*New Program Gives Hand-On Training Both in the Classroom and in the Field  
to Minority Students from Economically Depressed Neighborhoods*

**MINNEAPOLIS** (June 3, 2010) Students from Summit Academy OIC are benefitting from a historic collaboration that has produced an industry-crafted, specialized training program that will enable them to work on the state's roads and bridges. The hands-on, high-tech 20-week program, offered in partnership with the International Union of Operating Engineers – Local 49, offers 15 weeks of classroom, online and simulator training at Summit's Minneapolis facility and then five weeks on the actual machinery in Hinckley.

"This training is like no other being offered locally and it gives our students – many with difficult backgrounds and upbringings – the tools they need to succeed and become contributing members of society," said Louis King, CEO of Summit Academy OIC. "We are pleased to be partnering with Local 49 and their support of our mission of teaching our students to be self-sufficient, regardless of background, economic status or ethnicity."

The Heavy Equipment Operator program is available to individuals who meet specific requirements in math and grade-point-average, as well as their ability to travel. Each applicant also was

screened with a personal interview and needed to pass the Local 49 Ramsey Exam. There are currently 22 individuals enrolled in the training, which will be offered once a year.

"Working together, we will strengthen our communities by preparing these individuals to assume their roles as workers, parents and citizens," King said. "This program as well as our other offerings provides our students with useful marketable skills because there truly is no better social service program than a living wage job."

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. For more information, visit [www.saoic.org](http://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](http://www.saoic.org).

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