



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **SUMMIT ACADEMY OIC EXPANDS INTO ST. PAUL BY OFFERING TRAINING AND FREE TRANSPORTATION TO RESIDENTS**

### *Plans to Open St. Paul Facility in 2010*

**MINNEAPOLIS** (January 8, 2009) Summit Academy OIC is taking its mission of empowering individuals to become educated, employed and contributing members of the community to St. Paul by partnering with a variety of nonprofits and providing free transportation for residents interested in participating in weatherization, construction and healthcare training at its Minneapolis facility. Summit has plans to open a St. Paul location in 2010.

"At a time when many nonprofits are scaling back or closing, we felt the need to expand our reach so that individuals from all parts of the Twin Cities can have access to programs that can literally change their lives," said Louis King, CEO of Summit Academy OIC. "We truly believe that there is no better way to assist these individuals than by teaching them the skills they need to get a living wage job."

Summit Academy OIC is a Minneapolis-based nonprofit educational and vocational center that empowers adults residing in the most economically depressed neighborhoods in the Twin Cities to become contributing members of the community by offering training in the high-demand, high-growth industries of healthcare and construction. Previously Summit's students were predominately from the Minneapolis area.

Recently, Summit completed training for individuals who were displaced when East Metro OIC in St. Paul closed its doors. Summit has forged partnerships with East Side Neighborhood Development Company, the Chicano Latino Affairs Council, the Lao Family Community of Minnesota and the Asian American Press to educate community members of the benefits of learning a skill that will help them become employed in the future.

Beginning in February, Summit will be providing free transportation for up to 60 students from St. Paul for its training programs that begin February 15.

"We are excited to be working with these organizations and expanding our offerings to individuals with a variety of cultural backgrounds to ensure that they can succeed now and into the future," King said.

"Working together, we can and will make a difference in these communities."

### **Free Informational Training Sessions**

Summit will be hosting a series of free information sessions about its training programs. For more information, call 651.288.9999.

### **WEDNESDAY SESSIONS**

**What:** Summit Academy OIC Information Sessions

**Dates/Place:** January 20 – Vietnamese Social Services of Minnesota, 1159 University Ave. W.

January 27 – Lao Family Community of Minnesota, 320 W. University Ave.

February 3 – Hallie Q. Brown Community Center, 270 N. Kent St.

February 10 – Paul and Sheila Wellstone Center for Community Building, 179 Robie St.

**Time:** 2 p.m.

### **THURSDAY SESSIONS**

**What:** Summit Academy OIC Information Sessions

**Dates:** January 14, 21, 28; February 5, 12

**Time:** 10 a.m.

**Location:** Plaza Latina, 925 Payne Avenue, St. Paul

### **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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