

THE SUMMIT

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Summer/Fall 2007



QOP National Honor
Society Students

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Fifth Annual Golf
Classic Doubles Last
Year's Results!

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Summit Completes
Paint Lab Renovation

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Summit students learn construction skills in preparation for stadium jobs.



Unique Collaborative Creates Stadium Employment Opportunities

Summit Academy OIC students who successfully complete 20 weeks of pre-apprentice construction training at Summit Academy OIC (Summit) will be well-positioned for construction employment opportunities. Louis King, Summit's President and CEO, has negotiated a contract with the Minnesota Ballpark Authority to hire a minimum of 50 graduates annually to meet minority hiring

goals that include 15% unskilled minority; 10% skilled minority; 5% women; and 1% disabled workers.

Summit, working in collaboration with Dunwoody College of Technology and Veit Companies, is preparing students for work as pre-apprentice carpenters, electricians, plumbers, painters, and heavy construction laborers. Summit has laid the foundation to help meet these goals. The initiative is well positioned to provide opportunities for Northside residents to achieve some measure of parity by sharing a portion of the economic pie created by the stadium construction.

"There is tremendous potential for

millions of dollars to flow into North Minneapolis due to the construction of the new Twins and TCF stadiums," said King. "Summit Academy's strategy is to position itself in a manner that ensures equity for people who normally do not have access to economic opportunities. With the stadium being built right in the Northside's back yard, it is only fair that Northside residents are able to earn a portion of the money used for building the facility."

Summit Academy would like to thank Dunwoody College, University of Minnesota, Minnesota Twins, M.A. Mortenson, Veit, Thor Construction, and our numerous community partners for once again demonstrating their commitment to Summit Academy OIC's mission and vision.

AT A GLANCE

Incoming construction students average annual income: \$6,200

Wage rate after graduation: \$13.44 hourly or \$28,000 annually.

Potential income as a journey-level construction worker: \$56,000 or more.



Johnathan Ross, one of four QOP National Honor Society students.

Summit-Veit Partnership Provides Training and Jobs

Summit Academy OIC and Veit Companies are partnering to provide a training program in the area of heavy construction laborer. The training program will be twenty weeks and consist of a two phased pre-apprentice carpentry training and heavy construction laborer specific training. All training takes place on Summit Academy OIC's campus with the specialized instruction provided by Veit. This training program represents a sustainable partnership for training and employment. Veit has agreed to hire a number of students that successfully complete the training program, and recently hired their first Summit graduate.

MARK THE DATE!

Staff and Volunteer
Recognition
2nd Annual Crab
& Shrimp Boil
Wed, Aug 29, 2007
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

QOP National Honor Society Students

The students of Summit's Quantum Opportunities Program (QOP) have once again demonstrated that nothing succeeds like success. Four QOP students achieved the honor of being inducted into North Community High School's National Honor Society. The honorees are Jazzalyn Baker, Angela Fable, Johnathan Ross, and Eugene Talatala.

QOP is an after-school academic enrichment program that focuses on building the academic, social, and personal success of young people to prepare them for post-secondary educational opportunities. Activities include preparation for standardized tests, academic tutoring, and personal growth experiences. Johnathan Ross describes his QOP journey thus far:

My name is Johnathan Ross. I'm currently in 10th grade going into 11th. When I started 9th grade I was getting a C-average. My friend told me about QOP. I joined and decided to stay in the program. After only a few weeks my grades started to shoot up. Now I am a National Honor Society member with a GPA above 3.2. Once I graduate, I plan to go to college to be a game designer or programmer.

According to QOP lead instructor, Mary Ebnet, "the students' outstanding achievement can be attributed to their active engagement in the program, hard work, and parental support."

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND QOP STAFF!!



Veit Companies instructs students on handling work-site hazardous materials.

Summit-Veit Partnership Goals:

- Expand program offerings into high growth high demand industry;
- Establish direct training feeder system of qualified candidates to Veit's Specialty Contracting Services;
- Provide employment opportunities for Summit graduates.



Geneva Smith and granddaughter, Aubrey, enjoy celebration commemorating 20 years of dedicated service.

After Twenty Years of Service, Geneva Smith Retires

After teaching keyboarding and document processing as a career and technology instructor at Summit Academy OIC for the past 20 years, Geneva Smith will retire in September. The "power words" written on the board in her classroom illuminate her teaching philosophy and moral conviction: proficiency, excellence, commitment, courage, and positive attitude.

Smith started at Summit in 1987 after a brief period of teaching junior high school students in the Minneapolis Public Schools. She began what she terms "her missionary work" as an employee of Twin Cities OIC (now Summit Academy OIC). Teaching at Summit has provided her a vehicle and venue to pursue a personal mission of sharing with others.

"I always try to encourage and motivate my students. It is rewarding to me to know that I had some small part in igniting a flame of growth and self-esteem in a student," she explained. "I tell them in order to get to where they need to be in life, they should always maintain a positive attitude and have integrity."

Summit Helps Bridge The Gap

Summit Academy OIC and Bridging have joined forces to build 100 dressers per month for Bridging's clients. Bridging's mission is to provide the economically disadvantaged in transition with quality furniture and household items. They serve families in desperate need, including the homeless, refugees, immigrants, and victims of family violence and natural disasters. With the opening of Bridging's Roseville facility, there has been an increased demand for dressers that Bridging cannot meet through donated items alone.

"Our goal is for each of the 5,200 families we will serve this year to receive a Bridging dresser," explained Ron Osterbauer, Bridging's Executive Director.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans provided a \$100,000 grant to fund this partnership, which is named "Thrivent Furnishes Futures." Donaldson Company is donating a sizeable central vacuum system to remove sawdust from the woodshop. Their significant in-kind contribution is valued at over \$7,000.

"We definitely can see the direct benefit of our donation," said Rod Kunkel of Donaldson Company. "If we can help pave the way for an

individual to make a positive contribution to the community, our company is happy to do so."

The dressers will be produced on-site at Summit by a volunteer workforce coordinated by Rae Carter. Summit staff, Aubrey Knox, will provide project oversight. There will be work-study opportunities for Summit's students.

"We are honored by this opportunity to serve the community," said Gary Courtney, Summit's carpentry coordinator. "Many of our students have used Bridging's services in the past. This partnership allows us to give something back."

If you would like to volunteer, please call Kristen Selander at 612-278-5259.



Serving Over 160 Minnesota Families in Transition Each Week

Our thanks to Steve Hoyt, Bridging Board Chair/Summit Golf Committee member, who introduced the concept of a Summit/Bridging partnership.

Smith shared parting words of wisdom and encouragement with the graduating class at Summit's recent July 10th commencement. The enthusiastic applause revealed how much she will be missed by students, staff, and board members.

"Mrs. Smith is a consistent instructor, and never wavers," shared her colleague, Sonja Simpson. "I'm going to be lost without her."

Geneva Smith will be honored for her unwavering service at the Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America (OICA) 2007 Education, Training, and Employment Conference, which will be held September 9-12 in Orlando, FL.



New Summit staffer, Aubrey Knox, greeting golfer at tournament.

Summit Alumni Aubrey Knox Joins Staff

Aubrey Knox first became involved with Summit Academy OIC as a Youth Build participant when he was 18 years old where he learned construction skills. He built upon what he had learned at Summit to launch a concrete/brick masonry company. After several years of operating his business, he has returned to Summit Academy to pass on his knowledge to our students. Knox's life has now come full circle.

Knox has come a long way in a short time. Born in Mississippi, he was the son of a minister. As is fairly typical of young people, he rebelled against his upbringing and decided instead to take a different path. As a teenager he got involved with the street life and the lure of fast money. After a brush with the law, Knox moved to Minnesota for a new start. Summit Academy and Youth Build gave him the opportunity to change his life. He has since gotten married and become a father. He now wants to give back to his community.

"Mr. King blessed me with this opportunity," said Knox, referring to Louis King, President and CEO of Summit. "He took me under his wing and gave me a chance. I am so fortunate."

Highlighting New Board Member Tolá Oyewole

Summit Academy OIC is pleased to welcome Tolá Oyewole to the board of directors.

Oyewole is employed with Best Buy as Senior Community Relations Specialist



New
Summit
board
member
Tolá
Oyewole

where she is responsible for the overall planning, implementing, and evaluating community relations programming.

Oyewole's involvement with Summit thus far has been invaluable. She was instrumental in recruiting Best Buy volunteers to remodel two classrooms. The renovation effort's estimated value is \$20,000, and features freshly painted walls, new carpeting, tables and chairs, flat screen televisions, LCD projectors, and surround sound. The volunteer work team also designed a tribute wall in honor of the late W. Harry Davis, Sr., and decorated a classroom wall with President and CEO Louis King's achievement motto, "The best social service program is a job." These additions have increased Summit's organizational capacity by enhancing the classroom learning environment.

Oyewole holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Minnesota in Marketing and Advertising and a Masters of Arts in Management degree from Hamline University with a focus on Marketing and International Management.

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Fifth Annual Golf Classic participants enjoying tournament.

Fifth Annual Golf Classic Doubles Last Year's Results

Summit Academy's 5th Annual Golf Classic took place on June 4, 2007, at world-class Bearpath Golf and Country Club. Thirty golf foursomes took part in the tournament on a mostly sunny day. This year's net proceeds of \$130,000 more than doubled last year's results. During the live auction, we were amazed by the generosity of the golfers and dinner guests, who contributed the funds needed to purchase a van for Summit's Quantum Opportunities Program.

Bragging rights for best team score went to the Lyman Lumber foursome of Jeff Holmes, Bob McDonald, Scott Puchtel, and Steve Schwieters.



QOP students and staff show off new van purchased with golf tournament proceeds.

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THANK YOU!



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Summit Completes Paint Lab Renovation

With the renovation of a formerly vacant building on Summit's property complete, students and staff now have a new 1,700 square foot paint lab/training space. In addition to classroom space, the newly refurbished building includes two ADA approved, handicap-accessible restrooms, an office, and a shop area. Summit pre-apprentice construction students utilized their skills to complete the framing, sheetrock, concrete, stucco, painting, electrical, and plumbing work. The new area will be used by students learning paint skills.

"The students and I are excited about the new paint lab," said Bob Ahlberg, carpentry instructor. "In the past, the classroom we used was cramped, and tools and equipment were stored all over the building. The move to the new building will make teaching and learning much more efficient and effective."

Summit is grateful for the generosity of its corporate partners. In addition to providing painting curriculum along with an instructor for a period of time, Sherwin-Williams donated paint, paint brushes, pans, ladders, and power equipment. In addition to a \$100,000 grant for capital, Graco also donated an airless sprayer for painting and texturing. Wells Fargo gave a grant of \$10,000 for equipment such as ladders, paint sprayers, and pressure washers.



Summit pre-apprentice construction students renovating paint lab.