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SUMMIT ACADEMY OIC STUDENTS BUILD GREEN SMART HOUSE

Students from Economically Depressed Neighborhoods Showcase Skills Including Weatherization Techniques and Use of Environmentally Friendly Products

MINNEAPOLIS (October 12, 2009) Students from Summit Academy OIC recently built a green Smart House and hope to use their skills to find green collar jobs.

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.

"Green is no longer the wave of the future, it is the wave of today and we want our students to learn the skills that will enable them to find jobs now and years from now," said Louis King, CEO of Summit Academy OIC. "There truly is no better social service program than a job and by providing useful, marketable skills to our students, we are giving them the tools they need to succeed."

The Smart House, which is located on the grounds of Summit Academy OIC in Minneapolis, features 'see-through' walls that expose the environmentally friendly products and processes that went into the construction of the facility. Visitors will see a variety of examples and techniques for weatherizing specific areas of a home.

Summit is hosting an open house from 10 a.m. – Noon on Saturday, November 7 that will feature guided tours of the Smart House.

Weatherization Technician Training

The green Smart House features weatherization techniques that are offered as part of Summit Academy's Weatherization Technician Training. Weatherization technicians receive hands-on training focused on preventing air infiltration and minimizing heat loss with insulation, exterior and interior caulking, window retrofitting and replacement, weather stripping and air sealing.

The training program was created to meet the demands of local and state weatherization projects expected to be initiated due to the federal stimulus package. Summit Academy OIC developed the program in conjunction with Conservation Service Group, Center for Energy and Environment and Community Action of Minneapolis.

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.