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KEYNOTES

Patricia Kelly
Executive Director

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Summer 2006

www.oicofoklahomacounty.org

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OIC Staff

Patricia Kelly - Executive Director
Shannon Carter - Literacy Instructor
Victoria Dixon - MIS/Accounting
Dickie Johnson - ABE/GED Instructor
DesJean Jones - Computer Instructor
Julie Myers - Literacy Instructor
Betty Thornton - Counselor

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Welcome New Staffer! *Julie Myers, In Her Own Words*

Being a new staff member at OIC feels a bit like I'd imagine it would feel to learn to ride a bicycle at the Tour de France. Everyone here is very experienced to say the very least! My background is in working with a university, research-based literacy center along with two years of teaching Adult Basic Education with an Even Start family literacy program. I saw early on at OIC that many family literacy teaching and motivational tools (e.g., children's homework and literature, family health and safety) would be applicable with OIC students.

I admire that our students are encouraged to vote on classroom issues and that they have an extraordinary responsibility in their own path of learning. I admire that OIC has community partners, offers life skills classes, and vocationally-gearred classes under one roof. I feel free and trusted at OIC to teach in creative, flexible ways. Though I have a lot to learn, I have energy and ideas to offer now, and at OIC I am allowed to present them everyday. Often, when I drive home, I think to myself that I must have one of the best jobs in the world. I've always wanted to be one (continued on Pg. 2)

OIC Golf Tournament

Thursday, October 12, 2006

Fairfax Golf Club

8:30am

Corporate Sponsorships Available

(Gold \$1,000 – Silver \$500 – Tee Box \$125)

Single Player & Team Sign-Ups

\$100.00 Per Player

Registration forms and information available on-line

www.oicofoklahomacounty.org

New Staffer, Julie Myers *(continued)*

of those people who could say that! I am proud to work in an environment about which I can say that staff and students are treated with a level of respect I've not encountered before in adult education. Have you ever received a welcome card (with personal notes from staff) in the mail after your first week of work? Well, I did! I even have a parking space. Wow! In New Orleans if you are lucky enough to get one, you have to pay for it!

I plan to center my LIFE (Literacy is for Everyone) class around content area reading and writing, which means I will need to locate that content area for each individual student. I want to work closely with other staff members to develop a goal-setting system for literacy students so that we can use our current methods, as well as tap into student interests with real-life materials and project-learning. All instructors here are planning to do

more small and large group work and to mix our classes for various learning opportunities.

Education is my true passion, and I am confident this group of instructors, staff, and students is in the right place at the best time ever to make a difference in one another's lives and learning!

Julie Myers

LIFE Literacy Instructor

How Ya Livin' with Liz Tork

As an exercise in preparing for their new careers, students of the Computer Software Applications (CSA) course have been participating in a session entitled *How Ya Livin'!* The workshop turns program graduates into guest lecturers, as they come and share their workplace experiences.

March 31st featured *How Ya Livin'* guest, Class of 1999 graduate **Elizabeth (Liz) Tork**, who completed the CSA – Accounting course. She now works as an Administrative

Assistant for the **American Heart Association**. Liz told students that they must begin to develop their 'professional selves,' identify what habits they would have to let go of, and learn how to receive instruction.

"You have to be aggressive on the job. There will be times when you will be asked to do things that may be wrong. Your work ethic must be strong because people must be able to depend on you," she said.

Liz advised students that, on the job, they may not often receive 'for-

mal' training in order to learn something new, so they must learn to build on what they have already learned and combine it with new lessons. Liz plans to continue her education by attending college to pursue a degree in Accounting.



Scholarship Update

In partnership with the Oklahoma City Community Foundation's Non-Traditional Scholars Program, OIC continues to award scholarships to OIC Graduates. To those who have been awarded scholarships during the 2005-2006 School Year, Congratulations from your OIC Family!

Mark Anderson – OIC Class of 2001 – University of Oklahoma
Fedora Correa – OIC Class of 2004 – OSU-OKC
Oline Elam – OIC Class of 2003 – University of Central Oklahoma
Pam Hallum – OIC Class of 2005 – OSU-OKC
Angela Houston – OIC Class of 2005– Metro Tech
Fredrika McClarence – OIC Class of 2004 – OSU-OKC
Carol Peter – OIC Class of 2004 – Moore-Norman Vo-Tech
Phillip Potts – OIC Class of 2005 – Metro Tech
Hermaina Walker – OIC Class of 1997 – Rose State College
Stacey Watkins – OIC Class of 2001 – Metro Tech
Marilyn Winston – OIC Class of 2005 – Metro Tech

Quick Notes & News:

SCOPE Does It Again!

S.C.O.P.E.—Statewide Communities Organized to Promote Education—founded by Rev. W. B. Parker, Pastor of the St. James Baptist Church and OIC Board Member, has made another large donation to OIC for the third consecutive year! A gift of \$8,000 was delivered by Rev. Parker in June. The support SCOPE provides to OIC and Langston University has been invaluable! Thanks to everyone for their ongoing support of SCOPE!

Gavin, Showin' Off @ the Capital!



OIC Graduate Gavin Weimer entered the Adult Basic Education/GED class on October 3, 2005 as a 17-year-old young man who was anxious to take the State GED exam. The first time, he did not pass the test, but he did not get discouraged and kept on pursuing his studies until he was ready to take the test again. Gavin did not make a passing score once again, but he strived and strived and studied and studied until one more time he was ready to take the test again.



On May 22, 2006, Gavin passed the State Exam and was well on his way to continue his higher education elsewhere. Gavin was never a quitter. His attendance was good and

his determination was well worth his time to complete his goal at OIC.

In April, 2006, he was selected to serve as a Page in the Oklahoma State Legislature for a week. While there, Gavin received an uplifting letter of thanks from House Speaker Todd Hiatt.

Gavin has enrolled in Job Corps where he will study for the Certified Nursing Assistant Program. OIC wishes him the best and will continue to remain his education partner as he heads toward college!

Class of 2006 Graduation !!

Thursday, October 26, 2006 - 7:00pm

Reception at OIC – 6:00pm

Covenant Life Family Worship Center (*tentative*)

300 N. Walnut, OKC

Graduate Cap & Gown march

Quick Notes & News:

Time = Money!

Volunteers are the lifeblood of every not-for-profit organization. During Fiscal Year 2006

(July, 2005 – June, 2006), OIC posted

2,059.75 Volunteer Hours!

Auditing will convert these volunteer hours to their financial equivalent, demonstrating that the adage

is true: *time is money!*

1966 – 2006

OIC in OKC for 40 Years!

OIC was born out of the need for people who had limited option to secure adequate training and productive employment. In 1964, **Rev. Leon H. Sullivan** and 400 concerned ministers in Philadelphia, PA developed what would soon be the brainchild for OIC—a program to bring jobs and the unemployed together!

Two years later in 1966, **Dr. Charles N. Atkins** developed the OIC of Oklahoma County after visiting the Philadelphia location. He saw in Oklahoma City the same needs for our

citizens to gain productive skills and career training. As this message spread throughout the United States, thousands found that there was viable opportunity for a second chance.

Today 40 years later, the OIC of Oklahoma County remains one of the most stable and long-lasting of the 58 national and 46 international OIC affiliates. After changes in the climate of education, training and employment, OIC of Oklahoma County is still here!

OIC recognizes the inclusive environment needed to educate the

community, as well as the need for partnerships across public and private boundaries. Programs are steadily evaluated and upgraded to suit the needs of a changing workforce, but OIC's message has remained constant for 40 Years: It's about the people, and we're still OIC, Investing in Lives!



Summer In the Brick! Wrap Up

WHEW! OIC concluded its first-ever *Summer in the Brick Youth Program* for youth ages 11 to 14 years old on July 28th. The day-long sessions proved exciting—and challenging—for both the OIC Staff and our young participants. Each week, we were all challenged with a new area of focus, from designing your own website and movie to learning about the environment to art creation to learning to make a clock

or fix a bike to starting a business to designing mosaic art for the Centennial Celebration. Wow! What a mouthful!

“We worked to design programs that would offer a wide variety of interests for all young people,” beamed Patricia Kelly, OIC Executive Director. “The talented OIC staff was amazing, and we could never have gotten through the program without our equally talented volunteers.”

Special thanks to the volunteers and sponsors that made *Summer In The Brick!* a success:

Karla Beatty
Una Jean Carter
Benjamin E. Davis
Becky Durrett
Don Howard
Tim Howard
Ronald “Skip” Kelly
Gina Laglay
MaryAnn Moore
Susie Shields
Dr. Suzanne Spradling
Shelley Stalsworth
- and -

United Parcel Service (UPS),
as program sponsor

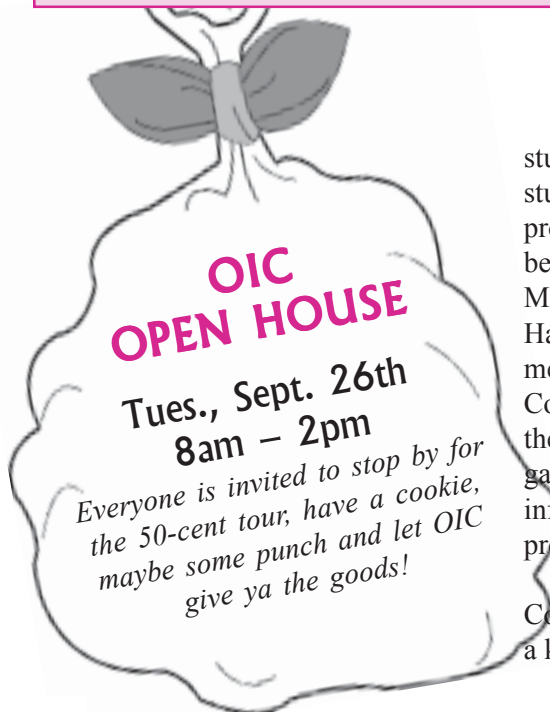


Adult Literacy Featured

On April 21, OIC hosted a regional student leadership conference. 69 students representing 10 different programs were in attendance. The day began with icebreakers led by Tommy Morton, Mary McLerran, and Del Harris, adult learners and board members of the Oklahoma Literacy Coalition, who shared their stories with the students. The students then gathered in small groups and shared information about themselves and their programs.

Tom Bach, a trainer with Tulsa County Library (TCCL), opened with a keynote address encouraging learn-

ers to empower themselves in their learning. Kerri Miles, adult learner leadership coordinator demonstrated simple but effective ways to enhance and improve memory and processing speed as well as how to improve the ability to focus longer. Rebecca Howard of TLLC made a presentation on information about accommodations and learning styles. Each participant received a book as a reward for his or her efforts. The sessions ended with students regrouping and discussing the day's events and giving feedback to other topics they would like to have available at other conferences.



Festival Leaves Impression!

The Arts Festival was very interesting. There were a lot of people coming from different states like Arizona, California, Kansas, etc. I picked up business cards and flyers for the people who didn't get a chance to go the Arts Festival and experience it; they, too, can get a visual on art and where the artists are from—not just from Oklahoma like we may think. Our creator gave people talent to become anything from sculptors and wood carvers, to wire and metal artists, and oil painters to clay potters. There were musicians from all over performing, too. It's a great place to take your family and friends to learn about different cultures and the art from different cultures. It's an inner, spiritual experience that opens your mind, beyond imagination, thoughts. I enjoyed it so much!

OIC Student, Angie McQuerry

My first arts festival experience was so unique. Although, I seem to get overwhelmed in crowded places, I truly enjoyed myself. I have never seen such beautiful detailed art. I could tell from all the artwork that I saw came from the heart. There were many forms of art: from sculptures made of copper and/or clay to oil paintings and handmade jewelry. There were a couple of art exhibits that really caught my eye. One of them was a woman sculpture made of copper that was laying partially into the ground. To me, it represented a woman who was down to earth. Another eye catcher was art on a feather. It was so awesome to see such art on a feather! I could only imagine how hard it would be to paint on a feather. I was so mesmerized by the feather painting that I had to ask if the artist had to stiffen the feather somehow before painting on it. The artist said "No, I used a very tiny paint brush". To me, feathers represent freedom. So let the art be free to see!

OIC Student, Christina Berry

Annual S.C.O.P.E. Banquet

Statewide Communities Organized to Promote Education

Friday, Nov. 10, 2006 at 7:00pm
St. James Baptist Church Fellowship Hall
12600 Parker Heights Blvd., Spencer

Tickets \$40 (Call OIC)

Proceeds to benefit OIC and Langston University

FROM TODAY ON

By OIC Student, Evy Gentry

From today on, I must change
From today on, my lifestyle will change
My attitude, my pride in all that I do
My self-esteem has changed for the better
TODAY

Today I shall look for today
The future is tomorrow and any other day ahead
Make each day shine as if it was my last.
Everyday all day
No matter how hard life may get
I shall say: "Today is a brighter day
Everyday is a brighter day
Everyday all day from today."

Quick Notes & News:

OKC Zoo FUNd!

OIC has been awarded a grant from the OKC Zoo Fund! The grant provides transportation, admission and educational activities through the exciting OKC Zoo. The grant has already been used to incorporate Zoo fun & educational programs into the Summer Youth Program. Participants were invited back for two special excursion dates and workshops! Thanks OKC Zoo Fund!

Quick Notes & News:

OIC & The Oklahoman

Incorporating current news materials into the classroom has helped OIC students, thanks to the *Newspapers in Education* Program available through The Oklahoman. Special thanks to OIC's program sponsor, Willowbrook Investment – Donald Nevard for their generosity!

IN HER OWN WORDS...

Jeanettea Traylor, OIC Graduate Class of 2006

My high school experiences were not like those of a “normal” teenagers. I had a lot of problems with school, my family and what I was going to do the rest of my life. It didn't help any that in three and a half years of high school I was moved to six different schools. I was doing pretty well until my senior year.

The beginning of the 2006 school year was going well until about March, 2006—I just lost interest. I began to skip school a lot, and finally the school dropped me due to my unexcused absences. I had flagrantly disobeyed orders from my mother and the school to attend class. Later on, when I tried to re-enter, the school system made it really difficult, so I just decided to quit.

My family was very disappointed in me mainly because I just had three months left until graduation. For the next few months, I just seemed to be lost, not knowing what to do or where to go. I had plans for my life and this had not been part of the plan. I began checking on how I could get a GED (General Educational Development) Certificate when one day my cousin told me about a school called OIC. I

soon found out that OIC stood for Opportunities Industrialization Center of Oklahoma County and they had GED classes for people who had dropped out of school. My family got so excited about my desire to get back on track! They always wanted all their kids to get a good education, and they were and are very supportive. Soon, I was enrolled at OIC in the GED class. Being in that class gave me new insight on learning styles and techniques. The instructor helped me to identify the fact that I learn better and faster when I write notes and work the same types of problems over and over. Using this technique would allow the information to find what file cabinet in my brain to put it in. This made it possible for me to be able to go back later and find it as I needed it. I was quite surprised when I quit fighting the process and just did it. It didn't take long before I was able to pass the GED practice test in class and my instructor said, “You need to go on and sign up to take the Oklahoma State GED Test.”

Now, my future is back on track! I passed the State GED Test and was notified in August, 2006. My future is tomorrow. I have begun setting

my goals for college. Now, education is my priority because OIC helped me to understand that education can give you power; and with power, you can help change the things in the world that I feel are unfair or could be better.

Even though my life has been difficult—and whose isn't! I am back on track, and I have enough courage to reach for the goals I have set. Thanks to the staff at OIC I can see myself ten years from now: owning my own business; doing something that I enjoy; making a good salary; paying taxes; and living the “American Dream” in a nice home with my family moving toward the future. Nothing worthwhile is easy, but with the confidence that I gained at OIC, I am able to see a future where there was none before!



The mission of OIC of Oklahoma County is to provide individualized services, education and skills training.

OIC of Oklahoma County

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