



# AIOIC SPIRIT



**The Open House welcome** is provided by AIOIC board member Clyde Bellecourt at the May 21 event before the feast.

## A WELCOMING EVENT

The annual AIOIC Open House and Career Fair, an activity provided as part of Indian month, saw several hundred visitors on May 21, a fine spring day which allowed many to have their lunch outside under a canopy. Besides perspectives and welcomes from board member Clyde Bellecourt and CEO Joe Hobot, the visitors received information on the many AIOIC programs and were able to speak with recruiters from 15 agencies.

The following employers were on-hand to discuss their hiring procedures:

- All Team Staffing
- ACR Homes
- Dunwoody College
- FedEx Ground
- Frito Lay, Inc.
- Hennepin County Human Resources
- Job Corps/CHP International
- Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans
- MN DOT (Minnesota Dept. of Transportation)

- Project for Pride in Living (PPL)
- Seward Community Coop
- Social Security Administration
- State of Minnesota—IT Services
- Twin Cities RISE!
- Twin City Tile and Marble Company

One of the computer rooms became a display area for on-line examples of student work. A free raffle for items such as casino stay passes and Twins tickets also attracted much interest.

Many of the visitors representing other agencies were previous graduates of our programs, and we always enjoy hearing what they are doing.

**Computer Support** student Peter Vu discusses employment with a Frito Lay staffer.



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**AIOIC SPIRIT** is published quarterly. Materials are gathered and edited by the staff and students of AIOIC. Opinions expressed in the *SPIRIT* are those of the individual student or staff and not necessarily those of the organization, its board, or management.

**Long-Term Students:** Lydia Agimudie, Adrienne Anoka, Vaughn Beaulieu, Mariana Berg, Julie Bergman, Jasmine Billey-Harris, Mauryele Bradley, Toi Buchanan, Jamie Canada, Shanta Carlyon, Jennifer Carpenter, Eyvette Carson, Trevontia Credit, Wynona Day, Sara Epperhart, Jeanine Estimé Kirsi Fischer, Mustapha Fozi, Katherine Frazier, Amber Gilpin, Gregory Gossel, Darktu Graves, Melanie Hanks, Heather Houge, Samuel Johanneck, Cory Judkins, Yolanda Lopez, Robert Lussier, Gladys Marcial Rojas, Hani Maruf, Renee Mattson, Dorette Mefeune, Richard Melius, Stephanie Miller, Abdulhakim Mohammed, Shirringer Moore, Minh Nguyen, Amy Oliver, Rosalinda Rodriguez, Katrina Saice, Araceli Salas, Rachel Sam, Janice Sanders, Aleshia Scheer, Roberta Sims, Cynthia Skinaway, Amanda Spears, Amis Spider, Judy Stewart, Tameko Stocker, Graham Swann, Krista Thomas, Lisa Thompson, Karen Thunderhawk, Peter Vu, Karen Walker, Michael Wanglie, Farhiya Warsame, Aleeshia Wiley, Traci Williams, Janelle Wright.

**Basic Skills Students:** Johannes Andemichael, Ahmed Abdi, Starla Blue, Alex Bongard, Corey Dawson, Rodney Derby, Alyssa Graves, Leona Hurley, Barb Jackson, Bridget Johnson, Chassidy Johnson, Ryan Jourdain, Fozie Mustapha, Lawrence Oakgrove, Astrude Maceno, Ta'quaire McKenzie, Melissa Mestas, Alex Mudd, Lucille Norris, Guillermo Ortiz, Julia Rainey, Sam Richards, Ciara Rittmiller, Taleeyah Rivera Vizenor, Donovan Sargent, Steven Savage, Audry Thompson, JoAnne Vandenbrooke, Ahmed Vincent, Aleah WalkingBull, Mykeisha Wright.

**Long-Term Student Completers:** *Computer Support Specialists:* Computer Support Specialists: Andrew Anderson, Chris Beckwith, Tirsael Berhe, Romondo Creer, Cheyenne Fransen, Bradley George, Jason Grady, David Grim, Ali Hassan, Abimbola Jolaoso, Paul Levario, Saran Manning, Craig Marier, Mywiah Monkweh, Marites Oberg, Julio Orellana, Jeremy Rapp, Mark Rusnak, Gregory Sanft, Patrick Tobin, Lori Williams. *Human Services Technicians:* Ra'essa As-Sidiq, Cheryl Campbell, Tyann Christopher, Ariana Trejo. *Health Occupations Careers:* Sherri Green, Krystal Pettersen, Addis Yemaneh. *Health Information Technology Specialist:* Gloria Cospers, Aleda Elliott, Peggy Erlandson, Nardos Erundas, Zachary Hatgidakis, Jeff Hinrichs, Dinah Honerbrink, Antonitte Mahto, Jessica Nelson, Folakemi Obadina, Kathleen Touchstone.

**NAR/HHA:** Julie Bergmann, Heathe Houge, Rene Mattson. **TMA:** Julie Bergmann, Rene Mattson.

## NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

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## ***Providing Opportunities. Changing Lives.***

**American Indian OIC** is located at 1845 East Franklin Avenue in Minneapolis. Business hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. This includes Minneapolis Works, Takoda Prep, MFIP, ABE/GED, WIN and the Takoda Institute. FAX to 612-341-3766. E-mail to [info@aioic.org](mailto:info@aioic.org) or to staff at their first name and last name initial [@aioic.org](mailto:@aioic.org).

New long-term students in the Takoda Institute of Higher Education are admitted quarterly. Please apply well in advance of the quarter. See the calendar on page 10 for the schedule of program testing. Programs last from six months and up to nine months, which allows students to complete the intensive, hands-on education and seek employment in a short time period. See our catalog, Student Handbook, program sheets, *Quick Guide* or the Website ([www.aioic.org](http://www.aioic.org)) for information.

The class hours are: long-term students—as scheduled between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., M-F (**some evenings**); ABE and GED students—8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., M-Th; to 3 p.m F.

**AIOIC Staff:** (names are followed by their phone extensions) Prakash Adiani (119), Cooper Anderson (129), Richard Baldarrama (122), Darlene Barbour (112), Nirmal Bhattarai (131), Shirleen Blue (117), Latisha Cannon (133), Herb Christensen (134), Don Clark (115), Carolyn Deters (104), Linda Duck (108), Kimberly Dziubinski (TBA), Comanche Fairbanks (147), Katie Fitzpatrick (128), Michelle Graff (148), Beverly Haskell (102), Christy Hicks (139), Joe Hobot (149), Mitzi Hobot (TBA), Stephanie Hobot (126), Chris Hubbard (158), Barbara Hydeen (TBA), Amy Kadrmas (146), Tom Lonetti (121), Naida Medicine Crow, (116), Vala Monroe (113), Stephanie Needham-GreyEagle (100), Brittany Nickens (TBA), Maggie Opare-Addo (135), Paul Pacheco (137), Dawn Paro (111), Wilmer Skippingday (137), Melody Spears (175), Annessia Swann (103), Chris Taguinod (191), Amber WhiteBear, (176), Lloyd Wittstock (127), David Zemler (124).

**AIOIC Board of Directors:** LeMoine LaPointe, Chairman; Jacqueline R. Wilson, Vice-Chairman; Carl B. Fransen, Secretary/Treasurer; and Clyde Bellecourt, David C. Isham, Maggie Lorenz, and AIOIC President and CEO, Joe Hobot.

### **TO HIRE OUR GRADUATES**

Employers are encouraged to call the following: Melody Spears at Ext. 175, Human Services Technicians; Latisha Cannon at Ext. 133, Administrative Professionals; Stephanie Hobot at Ext. 126, Health Information & Patient Services Specialists; and David Zemler at Ext 124, Computer Support Specialists and short-term IT workshops. Call for contact with any of the graduates or completers.

### **LIFE RE-ENTERED: MOVING BEYOND A LAYOFF**

I was recently running errands when I ran into someone I had not seen in a while. After exchanging niceties, the usual question came up: what have you been up to? I took a deep breath preparing to rattle off the story I'd been repeating too much lately: the company I worked for decided it was more cost-effective to relocate its operations to Dallas, Texas. As a result, after 31 years of straight employment, I was now unemployed.

I felt compelled to relay my sad tale to anyone who inquired. It was like a wound I didn't allow to heal. This time there was a switch. I announced in a clear voice: "I am a student at Takoda Institute in the Administrative Professional program."



It was through the Minneapolis Lake Street WorkForce Center that I saw the fliers advertising the programs offered by Takoda. The only thing I knew of the institute was the location of the one story building on the corner of Franklin and Cedar. At the informational session at the center, it was comforting to hear from people who were going through a similar situation, to know that I wasn't the only one trying get through a situation I was forced into. The representative gave us the facts and answered all questions patiently. I could feel that this school would be a good fit for me. In the time between earning my GED in 1979 and now, I've made attempts at formal education with disappointing results. The schools were too big to give me the support I needed as a non-traditional student.

Continued on page 4

## RE-ENTERED CONTINUED

The first block was a challenge. I spent a lot of energy keeping my brain focused. What helped me to stay on point were the other students. Whether in the same program or not, we supported each other; I drew strength from them. With that and the encouragement from the staff, I am determined to graduate in November.

Starting the second block, I have a solid hold on my goals and I've gotten into a study routine. Attending Takoda is giving me confidence in my learning ability. It's prompting me to pursue other things I've been curious about, such as creative writing, music applications, and point-and-shoot photography, with an open mind.

I can feel myself moving up and beyond. I have my sights on a better future; a future that I'll have more control of because of the skills I am learning at Takoda.

Toi Buchanan

## A CALL TO OUR COMMUNITIES

Takoda Institute responds to the suggestions and insights of our Program Advisory Committees. This results in changes to our programs such as the two described on page 10 of this issue or in new programs.

Now we are appealing to the many communities which we impact through education or employment placements to contribute their time to our committees. Please contact Prakash Adiani at 612-341-3358 Ext. 119 to join in our improvement efforts.

## A NOTE TO OUR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

Hello Barbara, my name is Gertrude. I don't know if you remember me, but I met you in AIOIC about 3-4 years ago. Then I had just finished my CNA program and was looking for a job, my first job in U.S.

You helped prepare me for interview and to put up my resume. I have since gotten my nursing degree; a master's degree in Nursing from the U of M and I'm now presently working in Mayo clinic Rochester in the Internal Medicine unit.

I appreciate all the help you rendered to me and to so many others that come to AIOIC. Hope you are doing great.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This email was received by Barb Hydeem, the Business Development Specialist. Gertrude's last name is being withheld at her request but she gave us permission to print.

## THANKS TO UNITED WAY STAFF

Thanks to the United Way's support, AIOIC's Takoda Group held a successful pre-employment event on April 21. The event was an Employer Speed Interviewing/LinkedIn Critique where participants had 4-6 minutes to talk about themselves and practice specific interview questions with employers in order to critique their interview skills.

The event also offered a chance to have the participants get their professional LinkedIn portraits taken as well as an opportunity to meet with staff and critique their LinkedIn accounts to better market them.

Over 50 past graduates attended the event and employers commented they were happy to have participated and would like to be invited back for the next event.

Thanks again to the United Way staff for volunteering and helping us with this event.

Barb Hydeem, GCDF  
Business Development Strategist

## A MODEL STAFF MEMBER

We are in the presence of greatness. Vala Monroe—an AIOIC alumni and long-time AIOIC counselor—along with her family is adorning a billboard at the Franklin Avenue light rail station. If you haven't seen the display yet, give it a look at the station.

Takoda Creative and the Indian Health Board will be running this campaign again in July at the Lake Street station and at a bus stop on 35th Street and Central Avenue.

Katie Fitzpatrick, Creative Manager  
Takoda Creative, a division of American Indian OIC

## TAKODA INSTITUTE GRADUATION

It's almost that time again. If you graduated during or just after the spring quarter, look for an invitation from us to attend the graduation ceremony on Thursday, July 30.

The attendance was over 75 percent at the last event, and we look forward to seeing you there. Please respond to the invitation and let us know if you do not receive it by mid-July.

## FROM THE ABE/GED ROOM



**GED Learners:** From left are Sam Richards, Alex Mudd, instructor Christy Hicks, Johannes Andemichael, Astrude Maceno, Steven Savage, and Guillermo Ortiz.

### EXCITING THINGS

Exciting things are happening for our GED classes, and we are hoping we get the bugs worked out. As of the last three weeks, our instructors, Tom Lonetti and Christy Hicks, have been working with a few selected students in some accelerated instruction in math and ABE college literacy courses.

Tom Lonetti does his instruction in math starting at 9 a.m., with Christy Hicks' instruction in college literacy following at 10 a.m. A photo of those students selected is seen above.

We still have orientation and TABE testing in reading, math, and language skills every Friday morning start-three hours. If you are interested, you may walk in during those hours, with classes starting for you the following Monday morning.

With the start of powwow season, remember to buckle up and do not text and drive. Just a message to keep you safe.

Darlene Barbour  
ABE/GED Program Manager



### A WIN FOR NATIVE AMERICANS

Beginning July 1, AIOC will offer the Workforce Innovations for Natives (W.I.N.) program, replacing the current Workforce Investment Act (W.I.A.) program.

W.I.N. will provide workforce development, career training and job placement for Native American (enrolled and descendants), residents of Hennepin County who are unemployed or underemployed. It is funded by the Department of Labor under the Workforce Innovations and Opportunity Act (W.I.O.A.). W.I.O.A. is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy.

For more information, or to schedule an appointment contact: Don Clark, 612-341-3358 Ext. 115 or Vala Monroe, Ext. 113.

Dawn Paro

### THANK YOU

Thank you to the Ameriprise Financial Foundation for supporting the Takoda Institute of Higher Education. Their generosity allows us to provide our vocational education students with free job search support and career counseling.

American Indian OIC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. If you would like to make a contribution, visit [aioic.org](http://aioic.org) or call 612-341-3358, Ext. 128.

Katie Fitzpatrick



# TAKODA INSTITUTE

— OF HIGHER EDUCATION —  
A DIVISION OF AMERICAN INDIAN OIC

## DATAPPOINTS

The enrollment summary by programs for the Summer 2015 quarter is as follows:

Administrative Professional, 0 new, 6 returning; Computer Support Specialist, 7 new, 3 returning, 3 withdrawals; Human Services Technician, 2 new, 4 returning; Health Information Technician Specialist, 0 new, 18 returning, 1 withdrawal; Health Information & Patient Information Specialist, 8 new, 1 withdrawal.

That's a total of 17 new students and 31 returning, 2 first week withdrawals for a total of 46 students.

As always, we welcome all of the

new students to their school and wish them success in their studies and in their subsequent careers.

Career Services ran a new-student orientation which included catalog and handbook overviews, as well as tours, to introduce students to the programs and the Institute. The focus also was on their careers, both through the Service Learning Experiences, and in their future job placement.

Forms were explained and signed, followed by meetings with their academic advisors and the distribution of the student schedules.

Annessia Swann  
Registrar

## VALUABLE DIRECTORY ANNOUNCED

An updated and expanded version of the *Minnesota Native American Transition and Resource Directory* is available free and in the public domain. It is 140 pages of resources, contacts and descriptions, including state of Minnesota, counties, tribes and private agencies.

The work of the directory was sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Human Services and other departments. Originally developed in 2012, it provides update information on 29 of Minnesota's 87 counties, and information on tribal resources including urban offices.

Our appreciation goes to Richard Antell and to Lyle Iron Moccasin, who both sent out the information about the directory, released in May, and to Dawn Paro, who forwarded this link to our staff:

<http://www.doc.state.mn.us/pages/files/large-files/Publications/MNNativeAmericanTransitionandResourceDirectory2012.pdf>

## ABOUT THE SCHOOL

The Takoda Institute of Higher Education offers these programs (with number of months) See our *Quick Guide* or our Website for details:

Administrative Professional  
(9 months)

Human Services Technician  
(6 months)

Health Information & Patient  
Services Specialist (6 months)

Computer Support Specialist  
(9 months)

Many of the programs have a  
Service Learning Experience.

Apply for admission and financial aid soon, if you intend to enroll in the next quarter. Also, be sure to test soon so you can take any needed basic education.

**August 31** is the orientation date and **September 1** is the first class day of the summer quarter. Labor Day is the first holiday.

Please call Career Services Representatives at 612-341-3358 Ext. 171 for intake information, or Student Finance and Director of Career Services Amy Kadrmas at Ext. 146 for financial aid information.

A variety of short-term free courses are described on page 5.

See the staff list on page 2 for their phone extensions and email addresses. Career Services staff are also listed separately in the box on page 3.

**For the health program, a background check is required to enroll. This is because of requirements in the workplace.**

## ELDER HAPPENINGS

### MINNEAPOLIS AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER

The Health and Wellness Seniors program provides senior dining from 7:45 to 8:45 each weekday. They also can provide transportation for elders ages 62 and over.

The program encourages elders to take simple steps toward better health. Three walks per week (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 6 a.m.) are currently on their calendar, which can be viewed at the updated MAIC Website, [maicnet.org](http://maicnet.org).

All American Indian people 55+ and their spouses in the state of Minnesota are eligible. April Smith at 612-879-1770 can help you with enrolling in the program.

## TO YOUR HEALTH

### GINEW/GOLDEN EAGLE PROGRAM

The Ginew/Golden Eagle Program sponsors activities and healthy meals for children. Physical exercise held both outdoors and indoors is balanced with study time. Indian youth ages 5 to 18 can take part in activities.

The calendar for the summer includes Garden Camp and, for those over 8, swimming. The theme is "Violence and gangs will get you nothing but trouble." Call Julie Green at Golden Eagles, 612-879-1708, for more information, (or see [maicnet.org](http://maicnet.org)).

### NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY CLINIC

Weekdays from 10 a. m. to 6 p.m, and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. are the hours of the NACC for medical and dental services, at 1213 East Franklin, 612-872-8086.

Activities this summer include Stress Management and Enhancing Wellbeing with Chronic Health Conditions Workshops. Their Counseling Services Office is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Press 1 for an appointment. See [nacc-healthcare.org](http://nacc-healthcare.org) for overall information on NACC.

### MASHKIKI WAKAAIGAN

Mashkiki Waakaaigan is located at 1433 E Franklin Ave., Suite 13B. Operated by the Fond du Lac Band, it offers assistance in meeting copays for enrolled members of any tribe who live in Hennepin or Ramsey Counties.

Medication reviews are available by appointment. Open on Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 612-871-1989 for information.



### DIVISION OF INDIAN WORK

DIW Health Services offers a food shelf (Horizons Unlimited), pregnancy prevention counseling and a Youth Leadership Development Project.

For information on the other programs at the DIW, 1001 East Lake Street, call 612-721-8687 to learn more. You can also view their programs at [gmcc.org](http://gmcc.org), where you can also find *Vision on the Wind*, their newsletter.

### STRONG FAST FIT NATIVE

Strong Fast Fit Native at the YWCA of Minneapolis Midtown location provides an after-school fitness and nutrition program for Native and Latino youth ages 9-17 twice a week.

Youth engage in fun fitness and nutrition activities in culturally specific groups. The program seeks to prevent the onset of obesity and the risk of Type II Diabetes among youth in the Latino and Native American communities.

Participating families receive a YWCA of Minneapolis family membership!

For more information, contact Crystal Pelchat at 612-215-4367.

### MINNESOTA INDIAN WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

The MIWRC, 2300 15th Avenue in South Minneapolis, serves individuals and families through education and housing to bring about positive change for Native American women and families.

In the area of training and education, they educate professionals and community members about American Indian reality, with a focus on prevention of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug issues. They provide library services, research, publications, and workshops, and they make computers available with staff assistance in ATOD prevention and genealogy research.

For information on their many programs, call 612-728-2000 or visit [miwrc.org](http://miwrc.org).

### INDIAN HEALTH BOARD

The Indian Health Board offers medical and dental care and a Counseling and Support Clinic at 1315 E. 24th Street. Their regular 5 p.m. close weekdays is extended to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays. The number for those services is 612-721-9800, which will also be answered by an on-call service after hours.

Call Tish at 612-721-9839 about their Diabetes Prevention Program for those over 18. Their Website: [indian-healthboard.com](http://indian-healthboard.com).



**AIOIC CELEBRATES AT GALA**

Thank you to everyone (including the sponsors shown above) who made our first ever gala, held on April 17 at the Elements Cafe at the Science Museum of Minnesota, a success.

Over 200 friends and community members joined in the fun and enjoyed a dinner, awards presentation, and cultural showcase. The event raised critical funds to support our programs and we are grateful to everyone who made it possible, especially our generous sponsors.

Visit [aioic.org](http://aioic.org) to see more photos from the evening.

Katie Fitzpatrick



**CEO Joe Hobot** at the Gala, with Justin Cosgrove, Men’s Fancy Dancer; Denis Nevaquaya, Chicken Dancer; and Rena Nevaquaya, Jingle Dress Dancer.



**Graduation buddies:** Krystal Pettersen, Sherri Green and Ariana Trejo at the April 30 graduation.

**GRADUATING IN A RISING JOB MARKET**

The April 30 celebration for the graduating group of 39 Takoda Institute students was a well-attended, full-house event which featured rounds of celebrating and well-wishing. The graduates were as follows:

*Computer Support Specialists:* Andrew Anderson, Chris Beckwith, Tirsael Berhe, Romondo Creer, Cheyenne Fransen, Bradley George, Jason Grady, David Grim, Ali Hassan, Abimbola Jolaoso, Paul Levario, Saran Manning, Craig Marier, Mywiah Monkweh, Marites Oberg, Julio Orellana, Jeremy Rapp, Mark Rusnak, Gregory Sanft, Patrick Tobin, Lori Williams.

*Human Services Technicians:* Ra’essa As-Sidiq, Cheryl Campbell, Tyann Christopher, Ariana Trejo.

*Health Occupations Careers:* Sherri Green, Krystal Pettersen, Addis Yemaneh.

*Health Information Technology Specialist:* Gloria Cosper, Aleda Elliott, Peggy Erlandson, Nardos Erundas, Zachary Hatgidakis, Jeff Hinrichs, Dinah Honerbrink, Antonitte Mahto, Jessica Nelson, Folakemi Obadina, Kathleen Touchstone.

**At right:** Mark Rusnak moves his tassel from right to left after graduating.





**Pictures of a Graduation: Upper left:** Instructor Richard Baldarrama, Computer Support Specialist graduate Lori Williams, and instructor/Advisor Bert Christensen celebrate following the formal graduation program April 30.

**Middle Right:** Computer Support Specialist graduate Julio Orellana shows his appreciation to family, including his sister, Maria Orellana, a previous graduate, right.



**Left:** HITS graduate Nardos Erundas and advisor Lisa Royce.



**Hats Up!** The tradition lives on in this final toss of the caps for the winter quarter graduates.

Photos by Michelle Graff.

## THE AIOIC CALENDAR

### Weekly/Monthly:

Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m.: Intake and TABE testing for Takoda Institute programs

TBA: FAFSA workshops for student aid for potential students (held near quarter starts)

Fridays at 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: WIN orientation, TABE testing (must be pre-registered and have completed intake); Also, call Darlene at Ext. 112 to schedule your ABE/GED intake testing times

### One-Time Events:

Open Now: Enrollment in Takoda Prep (High School)

July 30: Takoda Institute quarterly graduation

September 1: Start of the Takoda Institute fall quarter (New student orientation on August 31)



## STAY CONNECTED TO THE AIOIC

Social media is an excellent way to stay informed and connected with us to find out about news, events, graduations, training dates, cultural stories and much more.



[www.Facebook.com/AmericanIndianOIC](http://www.Facebook.com/AmericanIndianOIC)  
and [www.Facebook.com/TakodaGroup](http://www.Facebook.com/TakodaGroup)



[www.Twitter.com/aioic](http://www.Twitter.com/aioic)



[www.Linkedin.com](http://www.Linkedin.com), search "American Indian OIC" in the "companies" category

Visit [takoda.aioic.edu](http://takoda.aioic.edu) and check out this user-friendly site, which continues to be updated with news, events, class schedules and much more.

## REVITALIZED PROGRAMS

### Health Information & Patient Services Specialist:

Welcome new and returning HITS/HIPSS students. We are glad you are here. We are excited about the new look to HIPSS Summer Quarter. There are two main changes to this program. The first is our name, Health Information & Patient Services Specialist. This name reflects the duties and employment opportunities available with this certificate. The second involves a change in course content. We have updated the course offerings to enhance existing content and preparation for employment in this field. One of these offerings will consist of a Service Learning Experience, SLE, in the second quarter of classes. This opportunity offers a time of concentrated workforce volunteer training in an area related to this certificate. In addition to this experience, students will be given the opportunity to learn new skill sets currently used in today's market. Frequently, this may result in a reference for a student for future employment or an offer of employment, at the completion of the SLE.

Both of these changes support Takoda Institute's mission to provide relevant education, training and employment services to our students.

In addition, I will also be experiencing a transition. As the Health Occupations program is on hiatus, my last day will be June 30. My time here has been very rewarding, and I will greatly miss everyone. Thank you for all of the wonderful and meaningful memories I will carry with me. I wish you all great success in the days ahead. Pilamaya, Mii-gwetch!

Lisa Royce

**The Administrative Professional Program** saw even more changes, and began in the Spring quarter. First of all, the students now will complete both the advanced courses in Spreadsheets and in Word, and will be prepared to take the Microsoft Specialist exams in those areas.

A new course in Writing Fundamentals was rolled out last quarter, and another course, Today's Professional Office is being conducted this quarter. In the last quarter of this program, students will take a Capstone series course in their area of concern. Call Latisha Cannon at Ext. 133 to get started on this program or Stephanie Hobot at Ext. 126 to find out more about HIPPS.

These are the latest programs to be changed in response to the job markets. Previously, the **Computer Support Specialist Program** was modified for the same reasons. Come in or call to be part of the change.

## FINANCIAL AID NOTES

The Takoda Institute of Higher Education is now accepting applications for the fall quarter, which will start on September 1. An orientation for new students will be held with the Career Services staff and others on August 31.

To become a long-term student, you must complete these five steps: (1) have your GED or high school diploma; (2) take the entrance test (TABE); (3) meet with a Career Services Representative to review your test scores and to complete your initial paperwork; (4) meet with the Financial Aid Officer to complete applications for financial aid; and (5) meet with the Registrar to register for classes.

To test, be at AIOIC on any Tuesday afternoon at 1:30. (No appointment needed.) The entrance test covers math and reading, and lasts over two hours, with breaks. Please call Career Services at Ext. 171 for more information about the testing process if you need additional assistance.

Those students interested in attending school in the fall quarter **must** complete the federal financial aid forms and provide a copy of federal tax returns if they filed them. Due to Minnesota State budget concerns and those of some tribal grant programs, those enrolling for fall or later quarters should test and apply for funding well before their expected start date to secure sufficient funding for their first quarter.

Please contact our financial aid office if you have questions about your eligibility or about our programs and assistance in meeting costs. We offer financial aid sessions at set times and by request.



Amy Kadrmas

AIOIC has 34 years of experience in training and placing students into full-time employment. Each of our students receives individual attention, with special focus on his or her needs and learning styles.

Our programs are up to nine months in length and offer a quick entry into the employment market.

Our campus is centrally located at the intersection of Franklin and Cedar Avenues, with access to many bus routes and direct access to the Franklin Avenue Light Rail Station. Our campus also offers limited free parking for students and guests.

For more information, contact us at 612-341-3358 Ext. 171, or me at Ext. 146.

Amy Kadrmas, (amyk@aioic.org)  
Director of Career Services

### *GIVE TO AIOIC: Providing Opportunities. Changing Lives.*

American Indian OIC appreciates the generosity of the readers of the *SPIRIT*. Contributions by individuals or corporations help us to serve the students and other customers and to help them become self-sufficient. Your donation is tax-deductible. Thank you.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution: \_\_\_\_\_

**Send to:** AIOIC, 1845 E. Franklin Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55404. Phone is 612-341-3358.

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# AMERICAN INDIAN OIC SPIRIT

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## ON THE MOVE

AIOIC is excited to announce an expansion of our social enterprise divisions—Takoda Creative and Takoda Group. Both of these divisions are meant to benefit students while providing low-cost options for businesses to expand their capacity. **Takoda Creative** is a creative service that provides design, branding, websites, and marketing for business and nonprofits in the area. We have worked with a variety of local nonprofits including the Native American Community Clinic, Bii Gii Wiin, and the Indian Health Board. In fact, you may have seen our work on local billboards. **Takoda Group** is a staffing service that connects jobseekers from Takoda Institute, area colleges, and those seeking a job change to employers. AIOIC is also in the beginning stages of developing **Takoda Tech**, a social enterprise division that will be dedicated to computer support. What makes these services a social enterprise is that they offer internships and other learning opportunities for students to expand their understanding of business practices within their field of study.

Due to the growth of our two existing social enterprise divisions, AIOIC needs more space. In July, both the social enterprises will be moving to the Metro Office Park in Bloomington which is situated 1½ blocks from the American Boulevard light rail station. Websites for both Takoda Creative and Takoda Group are in development and will be launched this summer. Contact information and further details about the move will be located on the AIOIC website at [www.aioic.org](http://www.aioic.org).

Mitzi Hobot, Executive Director of Organizational Development