

NETWORK *News*

OIC OF OKLAHOMA COUNTY FEATURED ON ABC



OIC LAUNCHES ASCEND TO SERVE THE WHOLE FAMILY

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK - OIC of Oklahoma County launches its new program, ASCEND, in partnership with Project EXIT for Oklahoma City families. Their objective is to create generational change within the families by building community, valuing education, and embracing progress. The ASCEND program serves parents of children aged 8 to 18 years old, while Project Exit provides their children with mentorship and post-high school planning. "We want the parents to know that it is not too late to pursue your dreams, too, so that is what ASCEND is here to do." - DesJean Jones

Congrats, OIC of Oklahoma County, on the new launch! Click [here](#) to watch the full interview

BANK OF AMERICA AWARDS JOBTRAIN \$1M FOR NEW TRAINING CENTER



jobtrain



BANK OF AMERICA 
**Awards \$1 Million
Grant to JobTrain
for its East Palo Alto
Center for Economic
Mobility**



MENLO PARK, CA – JobTrain, a Silicon Valley nonprofit that works to transform lives through workforce development programs and career placement services, received a \$1,000,000 grant from Bank of America. The grant will help fund the construction of their new Center for Economic Mobility in East Palo Alto, which will expand career training, job placement, rapid employment services, and support services to low-income communities within San Mateo County and Santa Clara Counties.

Bank of America has supported JobTrain for decades, and its recent national \$1.25 billion commitment to advance racial and ethnic equality, and create economic opportunity, has sent a strong message of how major companies in the region can do more to support underserved communities. This \$1 million grant to JobTrain is one of the largest the bank has awarded in Silicon Valley.

“Bank of America’s grant of \$1,000,000 and its partnership with JobTrain

to serve the community is a tremendous moment for JobTrain,” said Barrie Hathaway, JobTrain President, and CEO. “The Center in East Palo Alto will provide more services to the community than ever before, and JobTrain’s vision of clients reaching full economic mobility is at the forefront.”

To read the full press release click [HERE](#)

OICA'S NEW DIRECTOR OF INNOVATION & STRATEGY - STEVE THOMAS



OIC of America is proud to announce the newest member of its leadership team, Steve Thomas, of Minneapolis, MN. Although new to OICA, Steve is no stranger to the OIC network. He served on Summit Academy OIC’s Board for 12 years, and in his new position with OIC of America, he will chart a course for growth and success for both the national OIC office and all OIC affiliates.

Steve is a social entrepreneur with a strong track record of developing and implementing innovative programs for untapped talent across

America. He developed and launched Better Futures Minnesota, a pathbreaking social enterprise that offers integrated care and employment for single men, mostly Black men, with histories of incarceration and homelessness and little to no work experience. He assembled over \$25 million in financing to start and operate this enterprise, including more than \$10 million in earned income from Better Futures' business activities.

Before creating Better Futures, Steve held several senior executive positions at the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH), a national intermediary that helps create affordable housing with services for persons with chronic medical, mental health, and other disabilities. As the Chief Operating Officer (COO) from 2000 to 2005, Thomas directed all CSH consulting, investing, lending, and grant-making activities in 14 states.

OICA is grateful to have Steve's ingenuity and expertise to develop new strategies for the growth of the OIC network. Welcome aboard, Steve!

AN OIC TREE HAS FALLEN



It is with deep regret and sadness that we share this news with you. Our brother in the movement, Clyde Bellecourt, the founder of the American Indian OIC in Minneapolis, MN, passed away on, Tuesday, January 11, 2022. Clyde Bellecourt, Nee-gon-we-way-we-dun (The Thunder Before the Storm) was a tireless advocate for the Native American people and his contributions to Indigenous causes near and far are immeasurable. His legacy lives on through the organizations he created and the many people he inspired.

American Indian OIC was started in 1979 at the request of Clyde Bellecourt. Clyde went to Philadelphia to meet with Dr. Leon H. Sullivan and told him of the American Indian Movement which had made demands upon major Minneapolis employers to hire American Indians. Some agreed to hire them, but more than 75% could not retain their jobs due to poor preparation and work habits. Dr. Sullivan agreed to help, and he showed Clyde and the others with him how they could succeed where others had failed. The American Indian OIC in Minneapolis was created and able to turn the job retention rates around, with 75% of the Native

Americans keeping their jobs. Together, Clyde and Sullivan were truly a “dynamic duo” who fought hard for the disadvantaged within their communities and beyond. Please join us in offering prayers and positive thoughts to his family during this most difficult time.

Is the content of this email relevant to you?

Yes

Select

No

Select

DONATE

WWW.OICOFAMERICA.ORG

