



SUMMIT

ACADEMY OIC

May 19, 2022

Via E-Mail and Hand Delivery

Senator Eric Pratt, Chair
Jobs & Energy Conference Committee
3219 Minnesota Senate Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Representative Mohamud Noor, Chair
Jobs & Energy Conference Committee
379 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Pratt and Chair Noor:

On behalf of Summit Academy OIC, I want to thank you for the opportunity to share our mission of empowering individuals to develop their ability to thrive and become contributing citizens in their communities and economic drivers for the State of Minnesota.

The core work of Summit Academy OIC is building a bridge to the middle class through strategic partnerships with Minnesota's top companies and fastest growing sectors. Summit Academy is a leader in workforce innovation, training nearly 1,000 adults each year for in-demand careers in financial services, information technology, cyber security, application development, healthcare, and construction.

Summit 2025 represents a nation-leading approach to meeting the moment by providing students with world-class training, co-created with some of our state's best employers, to develop the skills and networks necessary to propel them to the middle class, at zero out of pocket cost.

The legislation introduced this year – SF3342 (Housley) and HF3798 (Agbaje) – provides Summit Academy with funding to expand our services as part of the Statewide Regional Virtual Network. This will help strengthen our economy by providing Minnesotans, statewide, with the training and curriculum needed to access wealth-building careers while simultaneously supporting businesses in their need for workers that are ready to work on the first day of their job.

We are requesting \$950,000 in FY 23 – in either Workforce Development funding or the General Fund – to further expand our work in Saint Cloud and Central Minnesota and continue to explore a potential expansion in the Bemidji area. The workforce shortage is a critical issue not only in the metro area but also in rural Minnesota – and we believe these partnerships with businesses in local communities will help us strength and increase the number of trained employees across the state.

We have had several meetings with businesses in Saint Cloud who are ready to sign up and expand Summit Academy's programming in Saint Cloud and the Central Minnesota region.

As we prepare for an online expansion of our accredited programming, we have also developed a partnership with a community-based organization in Bemidji to serve as a hub for student recruitment. The expansion launches with its first online cohort in September 2022. This will be all possible with additional funding from the Minnesota Legislature.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached via email at ljking@saoic.org or by phone at 612.278.5234.

Sincerely,



Louis King
Chief Executive Officer
Summit Academy



Leroy West
President
Summit Academy

C: Governor Tim Walz