



SUMMIT

ACADEMY OIC

May 8, 2024

Via E-Mail Delivery

Rep. Hodan Hassan, Chair
597 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Sen. Champion, President of the Senate
3401 Minnesota Senate Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Rep. Jay Xiong, Chair
557 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Hassan, Chair Xiong, and Senate President Champion:

Thank you for your continued support of Summit Academy located in North Minneapolis. We are grateful for the Jobs and Economic Development Omnibus Budget bill this session.

As the conference committee convenes and finalizes the Jobs and Economic Development Omnibus Budget bill this session, we respectfully request inclusion of \$150,000 for Summit Academy. The original bill -- HF5012 (Hassan)/SF4646 (Champion) -- was introduced this session and a \$150,000 appropriation in FY25 is included in the House Jobs and Economic Development Omnibus Budget bill.

As you know, employers in the Twin Cities metro area reported an over 25,400 job vacancies in Health & Social Assistance in 2022. This accounted for over one-quarter (25.9%) of the region's total job vacancies. The number of job vacancies in this field is up 75% from 2017, with an overall median wage of \$29.63 per hour.

Summit Academy is building its network of advisory and employer partners to support the development of a Dental Assistant training program. The \$150,000 appropriation from the Workforce Development Fund (WDF) included in the House bill will provide Summit Academy with matching funds as the organization works with private sector partners to develop and implement a new Dental Assistant Program. Summit Academy's current industry advisory partners include the Minnesota Board of Dentistry, Park Dental, Aspen, and Heartland. The launch of this program is scheduled for the Summer 2025.

Attached to this letter you'll find Summit's timeline for the launch of the dental assistant program. Please feel free to contact me at lwest@saoic.org or 651-206-9297 (mobile) if you have any questions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Leroy West
President

C: Conference committee members

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