



# THE OIC HERALD

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## OIC OF WASHINGTON

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*The Mission is to help in the elimination of unemployment, poverty, illiteracy, and racism so all people can live with greater human dignity.*

## OVERVIEW

- A Message from our CEO
- Agency Highlights
- Alumni Story
- Meet our Amazing New Team Members
- Employee Recognition
- We're Hiring
- Upcoming Events
- Community Engagement Photos

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



Valued OIC Family and Friends,

As the season changes and we embrace the vibrant spirit of spring, we are delighted to bring you the latest edition of our newsletter. This issue is packed with exciting updates, inspiring stories, and valuable insights to help you make the most of this rejuvenating time of year.

In this issue, you will find a special feature on agency updates highlighting simple yet impactful ways to engage in our community through leadership, service, and community events.

Our community spotlight shines on our staff and partners making a positive difference in our service areas, showcasing their efforts to create a more inclusive, equitable, and compassionate society.

As an Economic Development and Career Training Agency, our programs and services are only as effective as the impact we are making across our communities. Overall, we enrolled students in over 2,000 Education and Career Services across 14 Counties. We have issued nearly 600 students a combined total of approximately \$900,000 in scholarships and tuition assistance to enroll and attain industry-recognized credentials. Internally, we have enrolled a combined total of 812 students in our Culinary Arts, Construction, Forklift, CPR, OSHA 10, Financial Literacy, Digital Literacy, and Media Entertainment Training Programs. Over 100 students participated in subsidized work opportunities, and several worked as interns. To date, we have placed over 150 individuals in living wage employment, and over 75% of them have been retained by their employers.

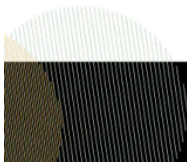
Our unique Community Action Agency, Education, and Career Training Model is backed by a variety of quality-of-life supportive services programs. Over the same period, we have supported 3,162 families with Energy and Utility Assistance, 2,199 families with Housing Foreclosure Assistance, and 49 unhoused veterans/veteran families secure rapid housing. Through OIC's Food Distribution Center, over 35,000 individuals received nutritional support in partnership with 14 food pantries across Yakima County.

We continue to assess our outreach efforts to ensure the community is aware of our programs and services.

We hope this newsletter inspires you to embrace the beauty of spring and embark on new adventures, both big and small. Thank you for being a part of our community, and we look forward to sharing more stories and insights with you in the coming months.

Warm regards,

Anthony Peterson  
Chief Executive Officer



# AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS

- February was Black History Month! There was a series of events and a guest speaker, **Raymond Santana**, one member of the exonerated five. A huge thank you to Yakima Downtown Rotary, CWU, Solarity Credit Union, NAACP Branch1140-B, and Blaine & Preciosa Tamaki Foundation for making the celebration a success!
- On February 21st, a group of OIC youth traveled to Olympia to meet with legislators to voice their concerns and priorities for their community. Civic engagement is critical to youth development and a unique feature of OIC youth programming offered at OIC.
- The 21st Annual Rosie Lee Classic March Madness was successfully hosted, spanning over two days from March 16th to the 17th, featuring 150 teams participating. The event was a great success, with teams from various backgrounds and skill levels coming together to showcase their talents and sportsmanship on the court. Special thanks to all the sponsors, volunteers, and organizers who worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth execution of the event, making it a memorable experience for all involved.
- We've been updating our brand if you missed last quarter's newsletter. Perhaps you have already noticed our fresh new logo, but have you taken the time to explore our revamped website? We proudly launched our new website in February, marking a significant milestone. New features, such as a campuses tab, provide users with easy access to information about our various locations. We are striving to create a more engaging and informative platform by introducing these new features on our website. We want to ensure visitors can easily explore our offerings, learn about our history, and stay connected with our community.

## THANK YOU!

Thank you to US Bank for learning about OIC's mission and engaging in our work. Community partnerships are critical to the well-being of the people we serve, and this is just one example of how organizations can partner to create an impact.

We would love to host businesses, community groups, and organizations to continue meeting the needs of our community.

Please feel free to contact us at [\\_p.r.d@oicofwa.org](mailto:_p.r.d@oicofwa.org) to find out more about how you can get involved.



# ALUMNI STORY

## RICARDO

In 2019, a young man named Ricardo expressed his interest in joining our Career Services (YouthBuild). However, it was puzzling for us to understand why he wanted to participate in the program. Typically, many of the young individuals we encounter are disengaged from high school due to academic struggles and falling behind. Surprisingly, Ricardo's academic test scores were actually above grade level, and he even mentioned feeling successful in school. Another common reason for youth dropping out of school is behavioral or attitude problems, but this was not the case for Ricardo. He had never been in trouble and did not associate himself with a negative crowd or engage in any misconduct outside of school. Ricardo was intelligent, reserved, and well-mannered. So, what led him to quit school? As it turned out, he was going to be a father. Consequently, Ricardo's parents decided to impose real-world consequences on him, emphasizing that he now had a family to support. His family believed it was time for him to stop focusing on school and start working to provide.

Luckily, Ricardo's parents realized the importance of him obtaining a GED to get even an entry-level job. His parents had high hopes that it would be easy to obtain his GED before the baby's arrival. However, Ricardo's journey towards obtaining his GED was far from straightforward, as it was filled with unexpected challenges and obstacles. Despite possessing strong academic skills, Ricardo struggled with severe confidence issues that hindered his progress. It took considerable effort and months of persuasion to convince him to take his first test, which he easily passed. This initial success provided a glimmer of hope, as it seemed like Ricardo was finally on the right track toward achieving his goal.

However, the baby's birth brought about a new set of challenges for Ricardo. While it was a joyous occasion, and both the baby and mother were healthy, the responsibilities of being a 16-year-old parent proved to be overwhelming and distracting. Ricardo's focus on his GED was further tested as he navigated the demands of parenthood alongside his academic pursuits. Despite the initial setbacks, Ricardo managed to pass his second test,

marking the halfway point towards obtaining his GED. However, the reality of his situation began to sink in as the initial excitement of the baby's arrival faded. Ricardo found himself with the pressures of adulthood, all while trying to balance his academic aspirations with the responsibilities of parenting.

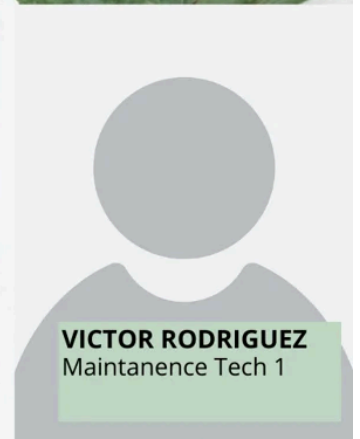
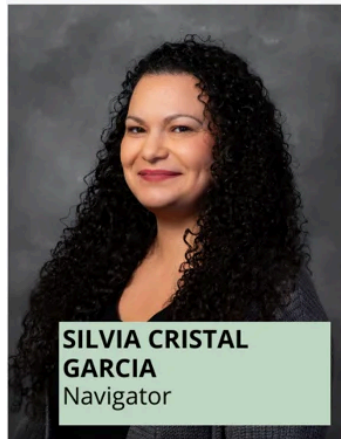
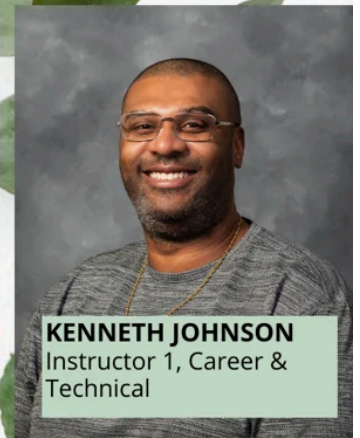
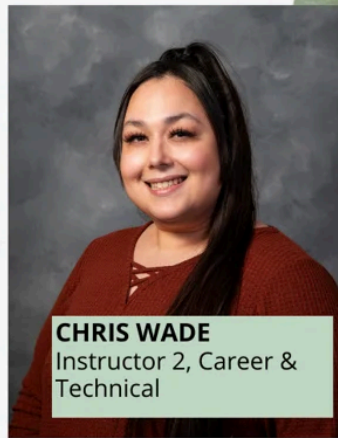
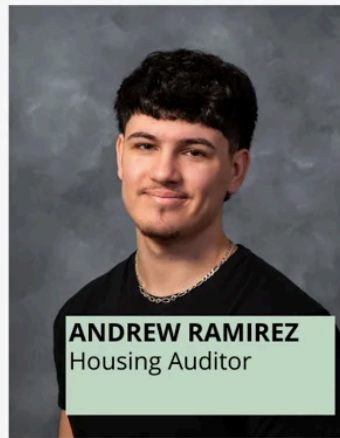
For the next few months, Ricardo's involvement became inconsistent for numerous reasons, hindering his progress. By the end of the 2019 cohort, Ricardo was battling with depression, anxiety, and the harsh realities of life, all while still trying to obtain his GED.

After YouthBuild, he enrolled in Secondary Education to obtain his GED. The last test he had to take was Math. From 2019-2021, OIC staff tried to keep in touch with Ricardo, providing all the support and encouragement to get Ricardo in to take the last test. The pandemic didn't make it any easier. Unfortunately, the challenges posed by the pandemic only added to the difficulty of the situation. Despite facing numerous obstacles, Ricardo managed to secure a job at a warehouse and even contracted COVID during this time. As a result, his responsibilities as a parent underwent significant changes, and his relationship with his girlfriend and her family experienced highs and lows.

However, after a long and challenging journey, Ricardo finally achieved success in the summer of 2021 by passing his math test on his very first attempt, earning his well-deserved GED. Although the process took much longer than initially anticipated, spanning two and a half years instead of the projected six months, the outcome was undeniably triumphant. Not only did Ricardo obtain his GED, but he also experienced a remarkable boost in self-esteem and confidence.

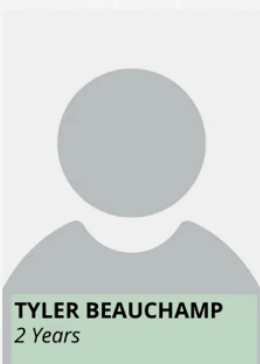
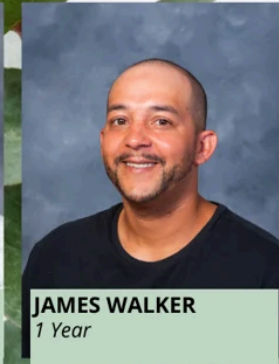


# MEET OUR NEW AMAZING TEAM MEMBERS!



# EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

## APRIL WORK ANNIVERSARIES



## MAY WORK ANNIVERSARIES



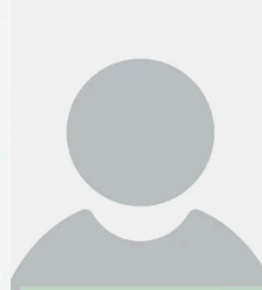
**ALEJANDRA OLIVERA**  
2 Years



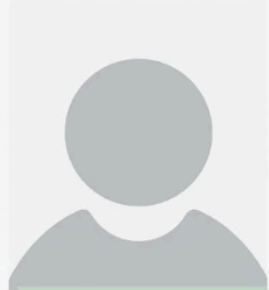
**ANGELICA CUEVAS-QUIROZ**  
8 Years



**ANITA FLORES**  
1 Year



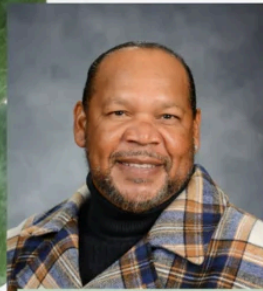
**CHARLENE PARKS**  
42 Years



**EVELYN MALONE**  
1 Year



**FRANK MARTINEZ**  
2 Years



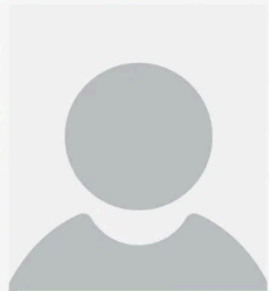
**HUGH ANDERSON**  
42 Years



**LEONOR BARKER**  
23 Years



**LYNDA MALONE**  
12 Years



**NAHUM RAY**  
1 Year



**ROSA JAIME-MORALES**  
2 Years



**STEVEN ROBLES**  
1 Year

## JUNE WORK ANNIVERSARIES



**ANAIZ JARAMILLO-RODRIGUEZ**  
1 Year



**ANTHONY PETERSON**  
5 Years



**ARMANDO ACEVES-MENDOZA**  
2 Years



**CAROLINA VARGAS-MANCILLA**  
2 Years



**DOMINIQUE CRUZ**  
3 Years



**ELISEO NAVARRO**  
1 Year



**HEIDI SILVA-MORALES**  
6 Years



**JESUS SOSA**  
2 Years



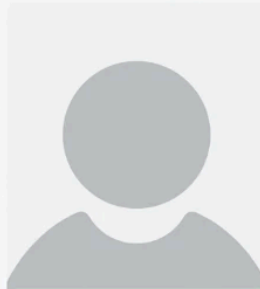
**JOSE DELGADO-GARCIA**  
3 Years



**JOSE VASQUEZ**  
3 Years



**LUISA PEREZ**  
13 Years



**NOELIA GUERRERO**  
1 Year







# WE'RE HIRING

We are hiring for various positions. We are looking for people with lived and industry experience to provide high-quality and real economic development and career training programs.

To see the full list of open positions or to apply visit us at [www.oicofwa.org/careers/](http://www.oicofwa.org/careers/)

SCAN ME



# OIC EVENTS

## APRIL

*National Volunteer Month*  
*National Financial Literacy Month*  
*Scottish-American Heritage Month*  
 20th: Volunteer Recognition Day  
 24th: National Administrative Professionals Day

### Events:

19th: Healthy Youth, Healthy Families  
 23rd: Community Investment Funds

## APRIL

| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |
| 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |    |

## MAY

| S  | M   | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    |     |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |
| 5  | 6   | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13  | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20  | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27* | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |

## MAY

*Jewish American Heritage Month*  
*National Mental Health Awareness Month*  
*Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month*  
 12th: Mother's Day  
 27th: Memorial Day

### Events:

14th: ICWA Listening Session

## JUNE

*National Forklift Safety Day*  
*National Portuguese Heritage Month*  
*National Caribbean-American Heritage Month*  
 16th: Father's Day  
 19th: Juneteenth  
 28th: National Logistics Day

### Events:

TBA Juneteenth Celebrations

## JUNE

| S  | M  | T  | W   | T  | F  | S  |
|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|
|    |    |    |     |    |    | 1  |
| 2  | 3  | 4  | 5   | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 9  | 10 | 11 | 12  | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19* | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26  | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 |    |    |     |    |    |    |

Follow us on Social Media to get the latest update of upcoming events.

\*Closure in observance of a Holiday

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

# HEALTHY YOUTH HEALTHY FAMILIES

**April 19th, 2024**

**5:30-8:00 PM**


**OIC Henry Beauchamp Community Center**  
1211 S 7th St, Yakima, WA 98901

**Parents will participate in Hidden In Plain Sight (Education on the risks of opioid use), Receive Narcan Training, and walk away with Narcan kits.**

 Dinner will be provided.

 Door & Raffle prizes

 Free Childcare K-5

 Community Resources

All programming will be available in English and Spanish

**REGISTER!**



This event/activity is NOT being sponsored by the Yakima School District and the district assumes no responsibility for the conduct of, or safety of, the event/activity. In consideration for the privilege to distribute these materials, the school district shall be held harmless from any cause of action, claim, or petition filed in any court or administrative tribunal arising out of the distribution of these materials, including all costs, attorney's fees, and judgments or awards, claims, liabilities, damages, expenses, or right of action, directly or indirectly attributed to the activities. Permission to distribute this flyer should not be considered a recommendation of the program by the school district. This is not a school district-sponsored activity.

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**NAACP**  
STATE AREA CONFERENCE  
ALASKA • OREGON • WASHINGTON  
PRESENTS

**TUES**  
**APRIL**  
**23**  
**2024**



# COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT FUND

**"By and For Organization Registration"**

» Black, Brown, and Tribal Communities located in Yakima are eligible for \$200M in Grant Funding «

**6:30PM - 8:30PM**

**Henry Beauchamp Community Center // 1211 So. 7th St. • Yakima, WA.**

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS



DESIGN BY NEW LEVEL VISUALS 206 280 9615



OIC Culinary Students Family Night



OIC Staff @ Black History Month Celebration Left to Right:



Manuel Carbajal (OIC Outreach & Recruitment Counselor) & April Burns from DOL tabling for WFTC event.



Free haircuts provided to the youth @ the Out-of-School Program. Thank you to Giovanni Mendoza from Good Hair and Alexis Salcedo from A Touch of Beauty



OIC Youth Legislative Day



Left to right: Gerald Lewis (YNTC Chairman), Laura Canfield, Michael Thompson & Anthony Peterson (OIC's CEO)



OIC-HBCC partnership meeting.



Rosa Jaime Morales (OIC Career Counselor) providing the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) training at O'Brien Farms in Prosser.



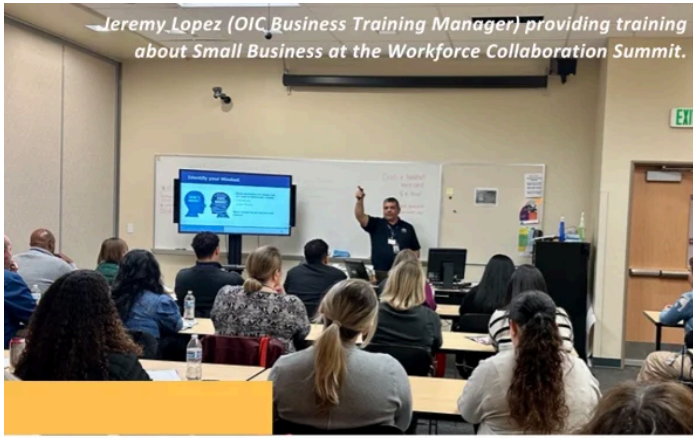
OIC Youth Participants - Construction Training.



OIC Youth Participants - Learning about Civic Engagement.



OIC Youth Legislative Day.



Jeremy Lopez (OIC Business Training Manager) providing training about Small Business at the Workforce Collaboration Summit.



Black Futures Co-Op Listening Session.



Giovanni Mendoza from Good Hair and Alexis Salcedo from A Touch of Beauty for donating their time for 2 days



Workforce Collaboration Summit.



OIC Black History Month Dinner, featuring Raymond Santana. Thank you to Yakima Downtown Rotary, CWU, Salarity Credit Union & Blaine & Preciosa Tamaki Foundation.



Ana Mendoza (OIC Career Counselor) providing the Jose Learns about Pesticides @ the Inspire Development Center in Grandview.



**OIC of Washington, 815 Fruitvale Blvd, Yakima, Washington**

**98902, 509-248-6751**

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