



THE OIC HERALD

JAN - MAR 2024 | ISSUE 7

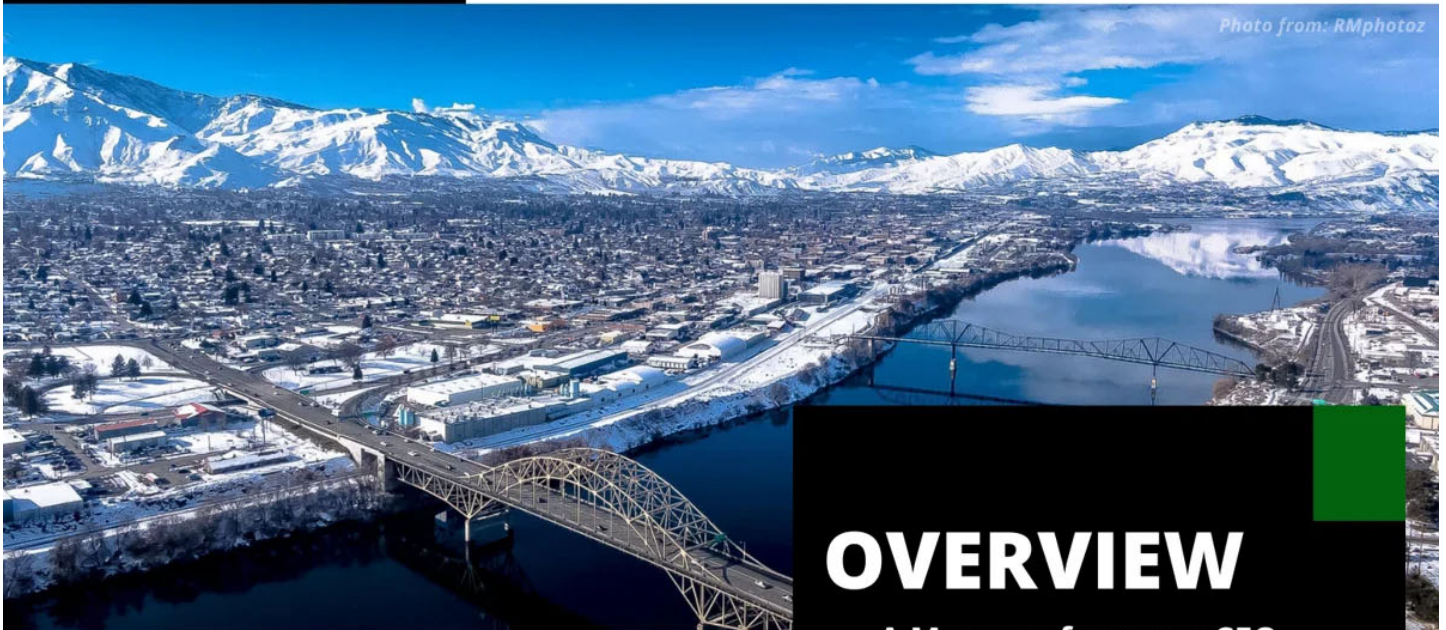


Photo from: RMphotoz

OIC OF WASHINGTON

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a. 815 Fruitvale Blvd, Yakima, WA

w. www.oicofwa.org

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
- OIC Mentor Spotlight
- Employee Recognition
- We're Hiring
- Upcoming Events
- Community Engagement Photos

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



Let's take a moment to reflect on the journey we've traveled together in 2023 and the incredible possibilities that lie ahead in 2024. The start of a new year is like the opening of a book, and each day is a new page waiting to be written with stories of growth, success, and shared achievements.

The challenges of the past year have only strengthened our resolve, and now, we stand on the threshold of a year filled with promise and potential. Embrace the unknown with open hearts and open minds. This is a time for setting new goals, conquering new horizons, and fostering a sense of unity within our OIC community. Together, we can overcome any obstacles and turn dreams into reality.

Let's make a commitment to support each other's aspirations, celebrate each other's victories, and lift each other up in times of need. As a family, we are stronger than the sum of our parts, and together, we can create success that will be remembered for years to come.

In the spirit of the new year, let's embody the qualities of positivity, innovation, and collaboration. Every challenge is an opportunity, and every setback is a lesson guiding us toward greater achievements.

May this year be filled with moments of joy, laughter, and shared accomplishments. Let's strive for excellence in all that we do and create a legacy that inspires not only ourselves but also those around us.

Thank you for being an integral part of the OIC family. Here's to a year of growth, resilience, and the pursuit of greatness!

Best Regards,

Anthony Peterson
Chief Executive Officer



AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS

- We are excited to announce that we have officially moved our Supportive Services from the Hathaway Building off Hathaway Street in Yakima to the former Veteran's Clinic off Fruitvale Boulevard in Yakima. The new location provides a larger space, allowing us to provide our participants with an even higher level of service. With more room available, we will be able to accommodate a more significant number of individuals, ensuring that everyone receives the attention and assistance they need. Additionally, a Narlozone vending machine is available for free during our hours of operation. To learn more about Narlozone and who should get it, please visit www.yakimacounty.us/2686/Overdose-Prevention.
- October was a busy month. We hosted our Annual Harvest Carnival at OIC Henry Beauchamp Community Center and our 1st Annual Trunk-o-Treat at OIC Excel Youth Center. Additionally, we collaborated with the League of Women Voters - Yakima County, to host a non-partisan community event, **Every Vote Counts**, on October 24th. To provide voters with information and learn more about District and School Board Candidates, Bills, Initiatives, and Referendums.
- On November 16th, we had the pleasure of hosting our highly anticipated Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon, a cherished event that brings our community closer and shares delicious food and heartfelt appreciation.
- We had our 34th Annual Community Holiday Celebration on December 15th. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our generous sponsors, the incredible members of our community, and our dedicated volunteers who played an instrumental role in making this event a resounding success.
- The MLK Jr Celebrations commenced with the Lee Pagget Food Drive on January 8th, leading up to the 39th Annual MLK Jr. Peace March and Celebration on January 15th, which was preceded by the MLK Soup Kitchen. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our partners and community members for their invaluable contributions in making these events possible.

EXCITING NEWS!

We are excited to reveal OIC of Washington's refreshed logo to you. After careful deliberation and consideration, we decided to embrace a more dynamic, solid, and bold design for our logo without going far from the old identity. The new logo retains elements of our previous identity, ensuring a seamless transition while signaling our commitment to progress and innovation.

Additionally, we are also revitalizing our website. The new website will boast a modern, clean, and organized layout, making it easier than ever for you to access information and resources. We have taken great care to ensure that the website is user-friendly and intuitive, allowing you to navigate effortlessly and easily find what you need. As part of this update, we are transitioning from the previous domain name, yvoic.org, to oicofwa.org, signifying our expansion across Central Washington and other significant agricultural areas. This transition will not only provide a more cohesive online presence but also align our email addresses with the new domain name. Going forward, all emails from OIC will be sent from the domain @oicofwa.org.



ALUMNI STORY

DAISY HERNANDEZ

In 2019, I decided to break free from working in the fields or a warehouse my whole life. It wasn't because I looked down upon those jobs or felt ashamed of them, but rather because I had a burning desire to continuously improve myself and secure a brighter future for myself and my children. That's when I stumbled upon OIC of Washington. They offered assistance in obtaining your GED. Without wasting any time, I reached out to them and eagerly enrolled in their classes. At that point in my life, I was juggling multiple responsibilities. I was working part-time at McDonalds and had a 9-month-old baby to care for. Despite these challenges, I was determined to attend my classes in the afternoons. I was 26 years old and had not set foot in a classroom since I was 16. Naively, I believed the journey ahead would be easy, but as soon as I started the classes, I realized just how difficult it was to grasp many of the concepts being taught.

Unfortunately, the pandemic hit, suspending in-person classes for a while. When they gave the green light that classes would continue online, I returned. However, I couldn't help but feel detached as the virtual learning experience lacked the same essence as in-person education. As another year went by, the pandemic persisted, and it was during this time that Rosario Mata approached me with encouraging words, saying, "Daisy, what are you waiting for to come back? You only need one subject; don't miss your opportunity; you can do it!" Intrigued by her words, I pondered over the idea and decided to go back. Under the guidance of Rosa Miranda, I embarked on my online classes.

In 2022, I attempted the practical math exam, but unfortunately, I did not pass. Determined not to be discouraged, I made another attempt, only to face disappointment again. Miranda assured me, "Daisy, you are ready!" However, deep down, I felt I needed to prepare more due to my irregular attendance and lack of understanding of certain concepts. Just before Miranda left, I was scheduled to take the exam again, but unfortunately, I didn't pass it. I started feeling stressed and anxious; to top it off, I was assigned a new teacher.

Upon Ana's arrival, our initial interactions were limited to phone conversations and her sending me work packages to complete from home. Until we scheduled the first virtual class and I had the opportunity to meet her.

Initially, I had reservations that she would be as strict as my previous teacher, but to my pleasant surprise, she turned out to be the best teacher I have had since my childhood. Not only did she provide me with practice materials to work on at home, but she also encouraged me. Despite my initial struggles, she reassured me, saying, "Don't worry, Daisy, we will continue trying. You are ready. It's just your nerves that are holding you back."

She sent me to take the exam about three times, and I didn't pass it. When completing the test, I would become nervous and forget everything. The examination would be canceled on certain occasions due to my frequent movement.

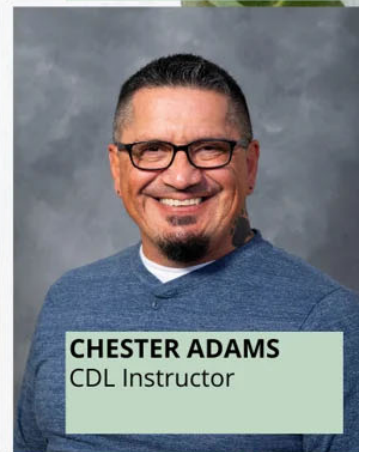
This left me feeling desperate and convinced that I had exhausted my opportunities. Then, Ana advised me to take a break and return to work, which would help clear my mind and return in three months. After three months, I resumed my efforts. Only a week passed when Ana suggested I take a Ready before the official exam. Because of work, it wasn't very easy for me, I did it a day before the official and missed a point. Despite this, I persevered and took the test, even if I failed. I reassured myself that one day, I would eventually pass it.

The day had finally arrived for me to take my test. It was a Monday on September 18, 2023. After dropping my kids off at school, I made my way to Yakima. However, the nerves got the best of me, and I got lost. I arrived at the place and tried my best to calm myself. With determination, I finished the exam and contemplated calling Ana. I decided to wait for her to call me instead, hoping for good news. After what felt like an eternity, Ana finally called. "Daisy, congratulations!" I couldn't believe it. "Are you serious, Anna?" I asked in disbelief. She reassured me, saying, "Yes! I told you that you could do it." Tears came to my eyes. I finally did it. I was at the store and started calling my family to share the news. I was thrilled. Now, I am looking for new employment opportunities and continuing my educational journey. I am forever grateful to Ana for her patience and all the other staff who were part of this journey.

Submitted by Daisy Hernandez.



MEET OUR NEW AMAZING TEAM MEMBERS!





SY RUIZ
Public Relations &
Development Director



ERIC GOMEZ
Instructor (GED/
Secondary Education)



FATIMA CORTEZ
Career Counselor





OIC MENTOR SPOTLIGHT

January is recognized as National Mentoring Month to celebrate the invaluable impact mentors have on the lives of children and young adults. This month we would like to recognize one of our mentors **James Walker**.

One thing that inspires James about mentoring is helping the youth believe in themselves and to build the confidence to know that no matter the circumstance or the environment that they are in that all youth can be successful,

James, like to live by every day toward making his community better than it was yesterday.

James Contact Information.

C: 509-864-7904

E: j.j@oicofwa.org

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

JANUARY WORK ANNIVERSARIES



ANA TORRES
3 Years



SILVIA MACIAS
5 Years



BERNABE ROMERO
4 Years



NICOLE LOPEZ
2 Years



JOE SANCHEZ
39 Years



ARCELIA GONZALEZ
23 Years



MARIA MARAVILLA
3 Years



LUPE SANCHEZ
14 Years



CASANDRA CISNEROS
6 Years



ALMA CABALLERO
13 Years



HAYDEE BARBOSA
20 Years



DIANA DUARTE
1 Year



FEBRUARY WORK ANNIVERSARIES



MAYRA SANCHEZ
2 Years



MITCH WEARY
2 Years



TANIA CRUZ
5 Years



MAYDA CHAVEZ
6 Years



HUGO GUELL
1 Year



IBETH ZAPIEN
1 Year



TOSHA DURAND
1 Year

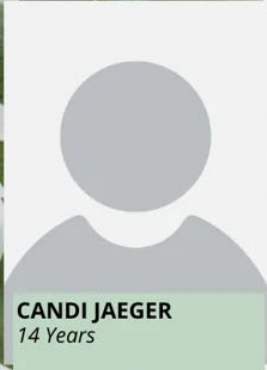


MICHEAL MENDOZA
1 Year



CRYSTAL ALMAGUER
1 Year

MARCH WORK ANNIVERSARIES



CANDI JAEGER
14 Years



GABRIELA MONTES
2 Years



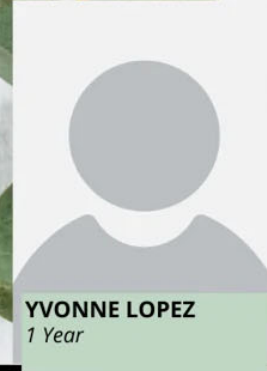
ELIZA BAYSINGER
2 Years



ANAKAREN GARCIA
1 Year



ANA KINDSVATER
1 Year



YVONNE LOPEZ
1 Year



WE'RE HIRING

We are hiring for various Part Time and Full Time 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.yvoic.org/careers/

SCAN ME



OIC EVENTS

JANUARY

National Mentoring Month

World Health Esteem Month

1st: New Year's Day

6th: National Technology Day

13th: Korean American Day

15th: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

17th: International Mentoring Day

Events:

25th Homebuyer Education Class

31st Black History Month Celebration, *Raymond Santana*

JANUARY

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			

FEBRUARY

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		

FEBRUARY

Chinese New Year

National Black History Month

10th: Chinese New Year

14th: Valentine's Day

19th: President's Day

Events:

1st Black History Month Celebration, *Raymond Santana*

29th Black History Month Celebration

MARCH

Irish-American Heritage Month

National Women's History Month

8th: International Women's Day

9th: Daylight Saving Time

17th: St. Patrick's Day

Events:

MARCH

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						

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

**Closure in observance of a Holiday*









OIC's Generational Wealth Building Workshop Series

HOME BUYER EDUCATION CLASSES

STARTING ON

24 **JANUARY**
Every 4th Wednesday of the Month at 5:30PM



DREW HARRIS
Presenter
Real Estate Agent,
Heritage Real Estate Group



TAYLOR ELMO
Presenter
Loan Officer, NMLS ID 2000653
CMG Home Loans



ERIC SILVERS
Presenter
Agent,
State Farm: Eric Silvers



ANTHONY PETERSON
Moderator
CEO, OIC of Washington


Ready to buy your first home, but don't know where to start?

Enroll in our homebuyer education classes, designed specifically to equip you with the essential knowledge and skills required to confidently navigate the entire process of buying your first home.

Discussion & Insight

- HOME BUYING PROCESS
- MORTGAGE LOAN PROCESS
- FINANCIAL EDUCATION
- HOME INSURANCE INFORMATION

FOOD AND GIVEAWAYS!

 **OIC MAIN CAMPUS**
815 Fruitvale Blvd,
Yakima, WA 98902

 **QUESTIONS**
509.853.0341



OIC of Washington is an equal opportunity employer and provider of employment training services. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Washington Relay Service 1-800-833-6384 or 7-1-1.

JOIN US FOR THE

BLACK

HISTORY

MONTH

CELEBRATIONS

RAYMOND SANTANA

A member of Exonerated Five



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



31 JAN. SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

TIME: Closed to the public

LOCATION: Eisenhower High School and Davis High School

31 JAN. OIC HBCC DINNER

TIME: 6:00PM - 7:30PM

LOCATION: OIC Henry Beauchamp Community Center.
1211 S. 7th St, Yakima, WA 98901

To register: <https://forms.office.com/r/QcmMcjPKTq> or
Scan QR Code

1 FEB. YOUNG LEADERS OF COLOR BREAKFAST

TIME: 9AM - 10AM

LOCATION: OIC Training Center.

815 Fruitvale Blvd, Yakima, WA 98902

To register: <https://forms.office.com/r/QcmMcjPKTq> or
Scan QR Code

1 FEB. ROTARY LUNCH

TIME: 12PM - 1:15PM

LOCATION: Yakima Convention Center

10 N 8th St, Yakima, WA 98901

If you would like to attend, the cost to attend is \$19.00, and
lunch is included; email yakimarotary@yakimarotary.org or
secure your spot.

1 FEB. AN EVENING WITH RAYMOND SANTANA

TIME: 6:30PM

LOCATION: McIntyre Music Building, CWU Campus.

906 E Dean Nicholson Blvd, Ellensburg, WA 98926

Free and open to the Public.

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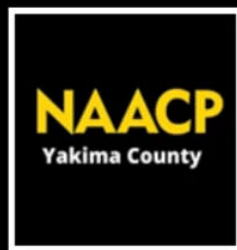
CELEBRATING

BLACK HiSTORY MONTH

Join us for the Annual Soul Food Luncheon
Lunch and Showcase. The showcase will
include Art Displays, Black Owned Business
Expo, and a presentation by the NAACP
celebrating 115 years.

FEBRUARY 29th
11AM - 2PM

OIC YOUTH EXCEL GYM
1009 N. 9TH AVE, YAKIMA, WA



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SCAN ME





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Send free email today