



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OPPORTUNITIES INDUSTRIALIZATION CENTER TO COMMEMORATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY DURING CONFERENCE AND GALA AT THE PENNSYLVANIA CONVENTION CENTER JUNE 12 -15, 2014.

Ft. Lauderdale, Florida – May 30, 2014 - Opportunities Industrialization Center of South Florida (OICSFL), a leading provider of job skills training, workforce development and placement services is pleased to be participating at the OIC 50th Anniversary Celebration & Conference at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, June 12 – 15, 2014. The conference theme is “The Man, The Mission, The Movement,” and is a culmination of the work started in 1964 by Rev. Leon H. Sullivan. The event will commemorate the accomplishments of an organization that is dedicated to providing training and job placement to those in need. Further celebrations will include a gala to be held on June 14th with Reverend Al Sharpton as the keynote speaker. OIC of South Florida will have two representatives speaking at this event, Newton B. Sanon, President & CEO and Arlene Connelly, Division Director of Youth and Family Services.

Newton Sanon stated, “Fifty years of providing training with a proven track record of lifting individuals with barriers to employment is a testament to the great vision of OIC’s founder, Reverend Leon Howard Sullivan. His vision and mission became a model of workforce development in this country and around the world wherever the unemployed and underemployed are seeking opportunities for self-sufficiency. As we look back at the milestones represented by the work of so many leaders who advocate for the underserved through training, it is only fitting that our affiliate, OIC of South Florida, is chaired by W. George Allen, Esq. A community leader, who in 1970 was responsible for the desegregation of Broward and Hendry County schools.

OIC was started out of a movement to give opportunities for disadvantaged people to get jobs in a time when jobs were denied to people based on their race. That movement, known as *Selective Patronage* with the basic principle of “don’t buy where you can’t work” was enough of an economic stimulus to encourage companies to open the door to employment to all members of the community. Developed by Rev. Sullivan and 400 other local ministers, this simple movement became known as the silent revolution when in 1963 it opened up job opportunities for minorities at the Tasty Baking Company in North Philadelphia. Many other companies experienced the same economic lesson and also opened opportunities to the community. These opportunities for jobs created a need for training in positions that historically were not available for minorities. “OIC was created because we knew that integration without preparation is frustration and that something had to be done about education for the masses so that a man could get a job with good pay to lift himself out of poverty, frustration, self-pity and anger”, stated Rev. Sullivan. In 1964 on a very cold January day, the first OIC was opened in a renovated old jailhouse and today, OIC’s throughout the world continue training people for jobs and self-sufficiency with the motto of “Helping People Help Themselves”. In the words of Reverend Sullivan, “Training is important for there is one thing no man can take from you – a skill by which you can earn a living.”

About Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) of South Florida

Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) of South Florida is a leader in workforce education and assimilation into the community at large for South Florida and was instrumental in securing the 2008 National Honor of Hope Award from the White House. OIC of South Florida has been recognized as the leader in community education for developing job skills and employment readiness for the under-served in our community. Reaching out to the unemployed, under-employed, persons with transgressions and at risk youth, OIC of South Florida makes a difference where it counts; in our community and with our business leaders to develop employment readiness, green jobs training and life skills training. OIC of South Florida believes and lives by the motto of “Helping People Help Themselves”.