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Omega School to celebrate 41 years

by Staff

September 10, 2013

"The only reason I was able to walk down that path of turning my life around, was because people whom I had never met, took a chance on me."

—Dane County Executive Joe Parisi ...on his Omega School experience

In 2013, Omega School is celebrating its 41st year of providing adult basic education services and preparing Dane County adults for a GED/HSED credential.

Omega School will host its 41st Anniversary Dinner on Saturday, Sept. 21, 6 p.m. at the CUNA Mutual Building, located at 5810 Mineral Point Road. CUNA Mutual Group is the Platinum Sponsor for this year's event.

Michael Johnson, CEO of the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County, will be the keynote speaker. He will share personal insights on educational issues. Several current and former Omega School GED/HSED



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graduates will share their stories and success.

The following people and organizations will be recognized for their service to at-risk youth and adult basic education:

Jessica Kusher

Jessica Kushner has worked with teens and young adults for over 25 years, primarily with Outward Bound and Juvenile Corrections. In 2011, she became the co-founder/co-director of a local non-profit called Forward Learning Youth and Young Adults (FLYY.) FLYY serves at-risk, disconnected, and court involved youth and young adults through wilderness expeditions, parent skills and support groups, and community-based aftercare. FLYY's vision is for young people to be able to participate in life-changing expeditions so they may realize their full potential in spite of various social, economic, and behavioral obstacles. See www.flyyexpeditions.com for more information about FLYY's mission, philosophy, and programming.

Chris Vandall

Chris Vandall is Associate Dean, Madison (MATC) College School of Academic Advancement. Chris Vandall has been instrumental building relationships with various community-based literacy and training organizations, including Omega School and Centro Hispano. He played a leadership role in the creation of several initiatives designed to foster increased collaboration and linkages for students. Madison College currently has one of its college advisors, Roland Jackson stationed at Omega School several times a month to assist with the transition to post-secondary education for Omega School GED/HSED graduates.

Altrusa Club of Madison

The Altrusa Club of Madison has been supporting Omega School programming and graduation events for over 20 years. Former Altrusa Club President Jean Davis also serves on the Omega School Board of Directors for several years. Altrusa Club helped organized Omega School's first fundraiser "Spelling Bee for Literacy." Altrusa Club has given grants to help students complete their GED before the upcoming 12/31/2013 deadline.

Music for the event will be provided by the Tony Casteneda Latin Jazz Sextet.

Proceeds from the 40th Anniversary Dinner will be used to help our GED students finish their GED/HSED credential before December 31, 2013. Students not meeting this deadline for graduation will be required to retake all their tests. Omega School has scheduled a total of three graduation ceremonies between now and January 2014 to help students complete their work by the deadline.

Omega School will host its 41st Anniversary Dinner on Saturday, Sept. 21, 6 p.m. at the CUNA Mutual Building, 5810 Mineral Point Road. Individual tickets are \$50 and tables are \$400. For more information, e-mail oscarmireles@yahoo.com

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