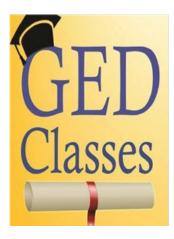


Watch your thoughts, they become words; watch your words, they become actions; watch your actions, they become habits; watch your habits, they become character; watch your character, for it becomes your destiny.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Loving God, show me my shortcomings or flaws that distract from letting others know who You are. Help me to be more patient and to love and forgive as You do." -Dr. Gene C. Blue





The Stay in School initiative is intended to improve high school graduation rates for students. The GED program will help prepare students for success through high school level education and better their graduation as well as future career success.

96% of the students who take the GED test have been successful due

to this course. Full scholarships are available for dedicated students. Come into the office to fill out an application and register for this class.



ESL and Citizenship Classes

Participants may attend virtually or in person.

Phoenix to Recognize Juneteenth as an Official City Holiday

February 2, 2022 Mayor Kate Gallego and members of city council today unanimously approved Juneteenth as a City of Phoenix holiday, in honor and acknowledgement of the history and experiences of African Americans in this country.

Juneteenth references June 19, 1865, the day when enslaved people in Galveston, Texas – the last enslaved Black people in the United States – received word they had been freed at the end of the Civil War. It was two months after the end of the war, and two years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation.

"Juneteenth reminds each of us of the promises of freedom, equality, and opportunity," said Mayor Gallego. "Recognition of this holiday on the city calendar is important, as this day does more than recognize the past; it calls for action today and in the future."

Valley of the Sun Juneteenth Celebration!



As a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, Arizona OIC relies on donations, private sector funding, and special events for its operations. While grants were available when Arizona OIC was founded many years ago, over the past several decades public funding and grants have been disappearing. As a result, Arizona OIC has been actively developing its private sector relationships and partnerships, whereby companies rely on Arizona OIC to train their entry-level workforce. If your organization is interested in becoming involved as a Corporate Sponsor of OIC, please contact us at <u>gene.blue@azoic.org</u> or contact our office at 605-513-8311.

THE IMPORTANCE OF VACCINATIONS

There has been confusion and misunderstandings about vaccines. But vaccinations are an important part of family and public health. Vaccines prevent the spread of contagious, dangerous, and deadly diseases. These include measles, polio, mumps, chicken pox, whooping cough, diphtheria, and HPV. A vaccine (or immunization) is a way to build your body's natural immunity to a disease before you get



sick. This keeps you from getting and spreading the disease.

For most vaccines, a weakened form of the disease germ is injected into your body. This is usually done with a shot in the leg or arm. Your body detects the invading germs (antigens) and produces antibodies to fight them. Those antibodies then stay in your body for a long time. In many cases, they stay for

the rest of your life. If you're ever exposed to the disease again, your body will fight it off without you ever getting the disease.

Everyone needs vaccines. They are recommended for infants, children, teenagers, and adults. There are widely accepted immunization schedules available. They list what vaccines are needed, and at what age they should be given. Most vaccines are given to children. It's recommended they receive 14 different vaccines by their 6th birthday. Some of these come in a series of shots. Some vaccines are combined so they can be given together with fewer shots. On June 18, 2022 CDC approved COVID-19 vaccination for children as young as 6 months. The mRNA vaccines by Pfizer BioNTech and Moderna have been approved for children 6 months to 5 years of age.

Vaccines are safe. The benefits of their use far outweigh any risks of side effects.

FREE VACCINATIONS Friday, June 24, 2022 8:30am-3:00pm Arizona OIC 39 E. Jackson St Phoenix, AZ 85004

COMING IN 2023

ARIZONA OIC GAP PROGRAM

The GAP Academy provides academic enrichment for youth in grades K through 8 to address the severe loss in education attainment for some youth due to the pandemic. The GAP Program will be held 1st & 3rd Saturday from 9am to 12pm.









DREAM











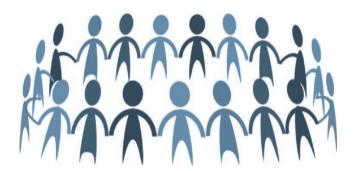




Please check to see if you are currently registered to vote early if you DID NOT receive your Official Election Notice. Also, if you have moved recently you need to update your information.

To register go to ServiceArizona.com or to check your status go to BeBallotReady.com.





Are you a member or leader of a local faith-based organization that would like us to share your upcoming news and events? Contact us today!

Arizona OIC works closely with many local faith organizations that help accomplish and support our mission to **help people help themselves**. We value our partnerships with organizations of many different backgrounds.

Send us your information by contacting us at gene.blue@azoic.org or call our office at 602-513-8311.