

Reaching higher standards for juvenile justice.

The Summit Academy awarded three-year CARF accreditation for innovative treatment programming of delinquent youth.



THE ACADEMY SCHOOLS
The Summit Academy

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CARF International announced that the Summit Academy has received its second, consecutive three-year accreditation for its innovative treatment programming of alcohol and other drugs or addictions and mental health, as well as involvement of family members in the treatment process. Founded in 1966 as the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, and now known as CARF, the accrediting body establishes consumer-focused standards to help organizations measure and improve the quality of their programs and services.

The Summit Academy was also awarded commendations for its superior educational achievement; positive student reinforcement and improved self-esteem; and enthusiastic leadership that support the pursuit of the organization's mission.

"At the Summit Academy, we provide the highest quality, family-focused experience for court-adjudicated youth," said Summit Academy Board President, Fr. Frank Ziemkiewicz, O.S.B., Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret.). "As we continue to experience elite student success through a holistic approach to rehabilitation and education, we're extremely proud of our accomplishment to attain CARF accreditation."

The accreditation decision represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization and shows the organization's substantial conformance to the CARF standards. An organization receiving a three-year accreditation has voluntarily put itself through a rigorous peer review process against approximately 880 standards and has demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an on-site visit that its programs and services are of the highest quality, measurable, and accountable.

"By participating in the review process, we have demonstrated to a team of on-site CARF surveyors that our programs and services are of the highest quality," said Ziemkiewicz. "As a result, we feel that we're successfully reaching a higher standard of care provided in the area of juvenile justice rehabilitation."

The CARF survey specifically commended The Summit Academy for demonstrating strengths in many areas including:

- **Exceptional family involvement initiatives**
"As identified by parents and students residing in the Philadelphia areas, Summit Academy has gone above and beyond to ensure the involvement of family members in the treatment process. Summit Academy chartered bus transportation to and from Philadelphia for parents to visit with their students at the organization."



- **Talented and committed executive leadership**
 “The CEO (Sam Costanzo) clearly communicates his passion for the provision of high quality services and describes a vision for the continued improvement of operations as well as meeting the needs of students, their families, and in the words of a referral source, “developing innovative treatment programming” such as the Drug Sellers Treatment Program.”
- **Focus on academic achievement and post-secondary planning**
 “Summit Academy helps nearly every student achieve educational goals before he or she leaves, and many students leave to transfer on to a higher education, including specific vocational training as well as colleges and universities.”
- **Established dependability as a service provider**
 “Summit Academy enjoys a particularly positive and powerful reputation among interviewed referral and funding stakeholders. The organization is recognized as a provider of meaningful services for students with particularly complex treatment needs.”



- **The organization’s staff composed of enthusiastic and dedicated professionals**
 “The staff presents a welcoming and genuinely caring attitude toward students and both models and fosters in each student served the potential for a more balanced and healthy lifestyle.”
- **Exceptional food service**
 “Summit Academy’s food service, including presentation, variety, quantity, freshness, and service, is exceptional. Many students also receive a basic training in the food service industry that they can take with them as they move on to adult living.”
- **Implementation of diverse services**
 “Summit Academy has gone to great lengths to provide students with activities that enhance their self-esteem, such as involvement in community activities, multiple sports, music, vocational programs, arts, educational programming, as well as life skills and career exploration.”
- **Utilization of self-esteem enhancing environment**
 “Summit Academy’s use of positive reinforcement of student’s good behavior and of complimenting students for tasks such as personal grooming and good hygiene in a population that has mainly received negative consequences and “put downs” appears to have helped produce improved esteem and hope for the future. Summit Academy’s utilization of good sportsmanship on and off the field of sports produces a sense of pride in a group of students from varied backgrounds and different geographical locations.”