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Building ODC as an Academic Discipline (2006) Conferences

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Press Release: April 3, 2006

Academy of Management, Organization Development and Change Division, "Building ODC as an Academic Discipline," 7-8 April 2006.

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Abstract
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ORGANIZATIONAL DYNAMICS EXPERTS HOLD HISTORIC MEETING IN PHILADELPHIA

For 50 years the Organization Development and Change field has evolved into an academic discipline offering Masters and Doctoral degrees. The top academic and practitioner leaders in the field will meet at the University of Pennsylvania to share best practices and to plan for the future.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. Apr. 3 -- Organizations are dynamic places. They live and breathe just like the people who make them work. Sometimes they run smoothly, and other times they need help. But who do businesses call when they have a problem or they want to move to the next level of development? They turn to Organization Development and Change (ODC) experts, who for the past 50 years have been working to build the field into a viable academic discipline.

On Friday, April 7, and Saturday, April 8, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the University of Pennsylvania, International House, 37th and Chestnut Streets in Philadelphia, the first comprehensive U. S. gathering of Organizational Development and Change scholars and practitioners will take place. Experts from more than 20 universities, three professional societies, and the Federal Executive Board will plan for their future through the lens of "Building ODC as an Academic Discipline."

They will share their perceptions, research, and will respond to critical questions including: What does a graduate of an ODC program need to know to be an effective leader of change? How well are ODC graduate programs facing these educational challenges? What are the new and important areas of research that impact organizational change? What are the challenges and opportunities involving international ODC projects and programs?

The conference attendees - by invitation only - will be the chairs/directors of graduate departments, board members of three professional societies, and scholars, practitioners, and federal and corporate representatives.

The conference is open to the media for both days. Interviews with presenters including Larry Starr, of the University of Pennsylvania; Peter Sorensen, of Benedictine University; Katherine Farquhar, of American University; Ronald Frey, of Case Western Reserve University; and James McFillen, of Bowling Green State University are available.

For more information on the conference, visit www.organizationaldynamics.upenn.edu.

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