



Robert C. Nelson

Robert “Bob” Nelson was born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He is a graduate of Central High School; Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio with a B.S. Degree in Secondary Education; and Temple University’s School of Social Administration with a M.S.W. Degree.

While at Central State, Bob enrolled in the Army ROTC program and upon graduation, was commissioned a Second Lieutenant. His two (2) years of active duty included a one-year tour in Vietnam where he was awarded the Bronze Star.

Professionally, Bob has been a teacher in the Philadelphia Public School System; a counselor for delinquent youth; a program coordinator for GED projects; a Director of a residential drug treatment program; and an Area Director for the Health and Welfare Council. Bob is currently the President & CEO of Philadelphia OIC, the prototype for the national and international manpower-training model founded by the late Reverend Leon H. Sullivan. Philadelphia OIC employs 40 people, serves approximately 1200 students per year, and has an annual operating budget of approximately \$2.5 million dollars.

Prior to Bob’s appointment as OIC’s Executive Director in 1985, he served in several administrative capacities to include: Director of Youth Services; Director of Community Affairs; and Director of MH/MR Services. Currently, Bob is the Chairman of the North Philadelphia Empowerment Zone Community Trust Board. Moreover, Bob is active with the American Cancer Society and facilitates the Prostate Cancer Survivor Workshop: “*Like It Is*”.

During Bob’s 30 years with OIC, he has received the following awards, either personally or for OIC:

- North Philadelphia “Goal Setter Award”
- North Central Philadelphia Empowerment Zone “Commitment to Leadership Award”
- Black Clergy “Service Appreciation Award”
- North Central Interfaith Ministerium “Service Award”
- Zion Baptist Church “Sullivan Service Award”
- Multi-Cultural Affairs Congress “Outstanding Recognition Award”
- OIC of America “10, 20, 25 year Service Awards”
- American Cancer Society “Volunteer Achievement Award”
- Vice President’s 21st Century Skills Network Induction
- Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce “Business Excellence Tribute”
- Awarded a Department of Labor grant to replicate OIC’s highly successful Hospitality Training Institute in New Orleans, LA, Jacksonville, FL, and Phoenix, AZ

Bob’s interests include sports, writing, and music. He is an amateur pianist, but by his own admission, he is a better listener of good music rather than a talented practitioner. Bob has one son, Robby, who graduated in May 2000 from the University of North Carolina with a degree in Journalism and Political Science. He is currently a morning television news anchor on Channel 4 in New Orleans, Louisiana.