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ST. HOPE PRAISES RISING TEST SCORES, COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES AT SAC HIGH

Sacramento- St. HOPE today released new data showing a significant rise in high school exit exam scores among Sacramento High School students. The organization also praised the school for the flood of college acceptances among Sac High seniors to some of the top colleges and universities in the country.

"Unquestionably, Sac High can now be considered one of the best places in the city to get an education," said Rick Maya, Executive Director of St. HOPE. "And the credit for this achievement goes to our hardworking students and their families, our committed and tireless principals, teachers and staff, our Board of Directors, and to St. HOPE Founder and CEO Kevin Johnson, whose leadership and vision has brought us to where we are today."

Eighty-three percent of Sac High's seniors are on track to fulfilling the "a-g college entrance requirements," the standard for acceptance by California public universities. That number is up from just 38 percent when St. HOPE began operating the school as a public charter.

Even more impressive than the rise in college readiness is the college acceptance rate for the class of 2008. To date, more than 75 percent of seniors have been accepted into at least one four-year college and the number continues to rise. Acceptances have been granted from over 77 colleges and universities, including some of the most prestigious in the nation -- MIT, University of California at Berkeley, Stanford, and UCLA.

Sophomores at Sac High are to be commended for their achievement as well. Results from the February administration of the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) documented an 80 percent passage rate in English Language Arts, up 9 percent over last year, and 77 percent in math, up 10 percent over last year. Beginning with the class of 2006, all public school students are required to pass the exit exam in order to earn a high school diploma. Students take the exam for the first time in February or March of their sophomore year.

"These results are great, but it is important to realize they come at a cost," continued Maya. "There's a significant financial investment necessary to achieving the results we see at Sac High. Our state's per student allocation doesn't cover the whole cost of educating a child in our system. This means that while we'd like to dedicate our energies largely to our school program, a great deal of our focus is spent fundraising every year to close that gap. We operate differently than a for-profit company, but it's worth it when we see these kinds of results."

The Board of Trustees for the Sacramento City Unified School District recently voted to renew the five-year charter for Sac High, evidence of the strong community support for the school and validation of the school's results and quality education program

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