



ST. HOPE

Pipeline

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FINAL EDITION

Sac High Students Travel to the Windy City

By Sheila Coleman

From November 16 – 19, five student leaders ventured to Milwaukee and Chicago to represent the best of Sacramento High School in cities that are strongly interested in bringing the St. HOPE educational model to their students. For our five students who attended this trip, it was an unforgettable exposure opportunity full of many highlights. Although we were there for only four days, we did a lot. Students visited the University of Chicago, landmark tourist sites, such as The Shedd Aquarium and The Art Institute of Chicago. Out of all their activities, their biggest highlight was shadowing students at North Lawndale College Preparatory. It was great to visit a charter school that is doing what Sac High is doing: working to provide an excellent education to all students. Through the exposure to new cities, and new ways of thinking and living, our kids' view of themselves and the world that they live in are tremendously enhanced.



Sac High students enjoy a day in the windy city.



Kevin Johnson addresses the crowd.

Kevin Johnson Speaks at Achievement Gap Summit

By Lara Knight

On November 13th the California Department of Education and Superintendent Jack O'Connell held the California Achievement Gap Summit to address the inequity that plagues our school system. The summit attracted more than 4000 teachers, administrators and lawmakers representing almost every school districts in California. The event hosted several prominent speakers including Tavis Smiley, Glen Eric Singleton, Douglas Reeves, Jeannie Oakes and our very own Kevin Johnson. Mr. Johnson spoke about the struggles and successes St. HOPE has faced in the effort to transform the failing Sacramento High School. The highlight of the entire event was watching over 20 Sac High students stand proudly in front of the audience to represent our efforts. The content of the two day session was heavy and at times depressing, particularly when the data clearly shows that in California, the system is failing young people. At St. HOPE, we know we have a long way to go in our fight to close the achievement gap, however, the students that stood before the crowd are evidence that what we are doing is working. We are focused on the moral imperative to educate all youth regardless of skin color and we will succeed and tell our story so that others will join our fight.

Sac High Student Janna Thach Honored by Bank of America

By Lara Knight

On Tuesday, November 13th Sac High senior Janna Thach gave the keynote address and was honored as a Student Leader during the Bank of America 2007 Sacramento Neighborhood Excellence Initiative Award ceremony. Janna's speech was incredibly inspiring, particularly to all the students in the audience. She talked about struggles, perseverance and her relentless commitment to succeed. As one of five high school students nominated, Janna will participate in a summer leadership development program. The program includes a series of leadership trainings and community service activities in addition to an eight-week paid internship with a local community-based organization. Her nomination was the result of her demonstrated interest in improving



Janna Thach looks to the future.

her community, a record of academic achievement and her ability to take on leadership roles. In addition to a challenging Sac High course load, she is taking classes at Sac City to prepare for college. Congratulations to Janna for being recognized for her hard work and commitment to education.

Sac High Charter Renewal FAQs

Over the last four years, Sac High has made a significant, positive impact on student outcomes. For the next month we will document the value-added benefit to students as outlined below in the following frequently asked questions:

1. Will Sac High's charter be renewed?

Schools are judged on 4 criteria: meeting API growth targets, similar school rank, comparison to similar district schools, and state rank. A charter must be renewed if it meets one of the criteria. Sac High has met three, well exceeding the legal requirements for renewal. SCUSD staff will make their recommendation on Sac High's charter renewal petition on December 6th; SCUSD Board of Education is expected to approve our charter on December 20th.

2. How does Sac High's performance under St. HOPE's leadership compare to the old Sac High?

The impact St. HOPE has had on the school and its students is undeniable. The number of suspensions, expulsions and disciplinary actions is minimal. There are no police on campus. Since 2003, the number of calls to the police department has decreased by two-thirds from 90 to 30 per year. Gang colors have been replaced with uniforms and students are learning. Student performance data clearly shows Sac High has posted significantly improved academic results since opening as a charter school. The data illustrates that the API score has risen 63 points, CAHSEE scores have increased 8% and 17% in math and the "a-g" rate has grown 40.1%.

3. What have you done to promote a college-going focus at Sac High?

The college-going culture is persuasive and consistent throughout our school. From the college pennants that line the walls of the school to advisory – a class where every student builds a meaningful relationship with an advisor who helps them with college research, exploration, selection, admissions and financial aid process and ensures that every student is on track to completing all "a-g" college eligibility requirements. In advisory, each student participates in a minimum of 5 college field lessons per year beginning in their freshman year.

SHS Charter Renewal Key Dates

The following is a list of key dates for Sac High's charter renewal and the Consent Decree high school. Please come out and support our school. For more info, call (916) 649-7900:

- **Dec. 3rd, 6:30pm – Community Engagement Meeting:** SCUSD will hold the 4th meeting to discuss the location of the Consent Decree high school. This meeting will take place at the A. Warren McClaskey Adult Education School located at 5241 J Street.
- **Dec. 6th, 6:00pm – SCUSD Regular Board Meeting:** SCUSD staff will make a recommendation for Sac High's charter renewal petition to the board. This meeting will take place at The Serna Center located at 5735 47th Avenue in South Sacramento
- **Dec. 20th, 6:00pm – SCUSD Regular Board Meeting:** SCUSD Board of Education is expected to vote on Sac High's charter renewal petition. This meeting will take place at The Serna Center as well.

Sac High ROTC Presents Colors at Kings Game

On November 18th, the Sac High ROTC Drill Team performed for hundreds of people during a Sacramento Kings game. The team made a huge impression on the crowd by serving as the color guard at the start of the game. Sac High's ROTC team is widely known throughout the region and we commend all team members and Sergeant Ervin on representing Sac High. Congratulations!

40 Acres Art Gallery Update

40 Acres Art Gallery presents *War and Social Injustice in Central America: A Panel Discussion* on Saturday, December 1st at 2pm at the Guild Theater. This event is free. This panel will look at the cultural and historical precedent for art and communication as empowerment when social injustice needs a voice. Xochitl Arellano will serve as the moderator. Panelists include: artist Claudia Bernardi, Todd Jailer, Juan Carrillo, Susan Ferriss, and David Andersen. As a reminder, tickets for the December 7th Walls of Hope Fundraiser are still on sale at the art gallery.

In the News

November 27, 2007: Boys Basketball Preview: The Bee's Preseason Top 20
www.sacbee.com/100/story/522741.html

November 27, 2007: Girls Basketball Preview: The Bee's Preseason Top 20
www.sacbee.com/100/story/523066.html

November 19, 2007: Editorial - Progress dictates renewing Sac High's charter
<http://www.sacbee.com/110/story/501317.html>