



**CONTACT:**

Adrienne Hall: [ahall@sthope.org](mailto:ahall@sthope.org), (916) 275-9540  
Lisa Serna-Mayorga: [lserna@sthope.org](mailto:lserna@sthope.org), (916) 275-9592

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 22, 2008

## **St. HOPE Public Schools Elects New Chairman of the Board**

*Bernard Bowler to Lead SHPS Board as Education Model Expands*

**SACRAMENTO, CA** – St. HOPE Public Schools (SHPS) Board of Directors has elected Bernard Bowler as its new Chairman, succeeding Kevin Johnson, the founder and first and only Chairman of the charter school organization. Bowler, who previously served on the St. HOPE Public Schools Board of Directors in 2003, will oversee corporate and local policies, and will ensure the organization continues to provide all students with an educational experience rooted in community service and high expectations.

"I am honored and excited to join the St. HOPE Public Schools Board of Directors. Serving as the Chairman is a responsibility I take very seriously and I look forward to building on the momentum SHPS started over five years ago by continuing to focus on results, accountability, and the utilization of key data to improve learning environments," said Bowler.

Bernard Bowler's experience in the education arena is extensive, first starting in 1991 when he served as the vice-chair of the California Community Colleges' Commission on Innovation. Later, in 1995, Mayor Joe Serna appointed him to the Blue Ribbon Committee to develop and implement plans to improve Sacramento's schools. He also has chaired the commission on school improvement in the Grant Joint Union High School District, chaired the SCUSD Blue Ribbon Committee for High Schools, and served on the California State University Chancellor's Commission to recommend strategies to prepare school leaders for the K-12 system.

"This is an exciting time for St. HOPE, our students, and our board of directors. I am confident Bernard's laser-like focus and unrelenting pursuit of student achievement will continue to impact our students and our community. It has always been my intent to help establish an institution for the community and now that we have done so, it is a privilege to have Bernard's leadership in Oak Park and it is a comfort knowing the organization is in good hands", said Kevin Johnson, St. HOPE founder and CEO.

In addition to his accomplishments in the education field, Bowler held many Executive Management positions at IBM during his 32 years of IBM employment. He also serves on numerous boards and commissions in California, concentrating his efforts in the area of school improvement for students at all levels of education. He recently co-chaired the Sacramento City Unified School District's Blue Ribbon Commission, a citizens' coalition focused on improving the academic success of all children in the district. He is a public commissioner on the board of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), which accredits colleges and senior universities. He is a co-founder of LEED (Linking Education and Economic Development, a consortium with Sutter Health, the Sacramento County Office of Education and IBM), helping schools design programs that give their students the skills they need to succeed in careers.

**About St. HOPE Public Schools**

St. HOPE Public Schools is public charter school system that focuses on traditionally underserved students from low-income and minority backgrounds and provides those students with a high-quality, rigorous college preparatory education. Currently PS7, which serves students in grades K-8 and Sacramento High, which serves students in grades 9-12, are carrying out their missions by providing personalized attention to their students, committing more time with an extended school day to achieve results and creating high expectations for our students and parents. Driven by results, PS7 has seen more than a 100 point gain in its API score over the past three years and is the highest API score of surrounding schools. SHPS opened Triumph Center for Early Childhood Education in September of 2007 completing its mission to operate a Pre-K - 12 public charter school system in Oak Park.

###