



Perspectives Charter Schools

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Stanford MBA Named as Perspectives Charter Schools' First CEO

Rhonda Hopps, CFA, takes reins of five-school, 2,500-student charter network

CHICAGO (April 13, 2010)--Perspectives Charter Schools, one of Chicago's original and most successful charter operators, has hired its first chief executive officer, Rhonda Hopps, an MBA from Stanford's Graduate School of Business who was born in Jamaica and raised in Evanston, Illinois.

Once tagged by *Ebony Magazine* as one of the most promising black women in corporate America, Hopps spent over a decade at Allstate Insurance Company and was a senior portfolio manager in its investment management subsidiary before launching an executive coaching business. Hopps comes to Perspectives from her most recent role as director of multi-family mortgage originations at Red Mortgage Capital, a subsidiary of PNC Bank.

Perspectives Charter Schools operates five schools around Chicago, including Perspectives Calumet Middle School, Perspectives/IIT Math & Science Academy, Perspectives Rodney D. Joslin High School, and Perspectives Calumet High School and Calumet High School of Technology. Perspectives Calumet High School and Calumet High School of Technology, which opened four years ago in the former Calumet High School building in Auburn Gresham, will graduate their first senior classes this year. The schools project a more than 90 percent college attendance rate this year. 89 percent of these graduates will be the first to attend college in their families.

Since joining the Perspectives team in January 2010, Ms. Hopps has been working closely with Perspectives' co-founders Diana Shulla-Cose and Kimberlie Day and the board of directors to develop a long-term strategic growth plan for the charter school network, which is now in its fourteenth year as a force for innovation and change in public education in Chicago.

“Perspectives is doing such incredible work in changing the way education works in this city,” said Hopps. “I feel privileged to be a part of that effort to push our schools in a new direction—especially now, when we really have to think creatively to deal with challenges of funding and violence prevention for our youth.”

Hopps has years of experience working with non-profit organizations. She has served as either chair or member of the finance committees for LEARN Charter School, National-Louis University, Illinois Facilities Fund and Mercy Housing Lakefront.

Hopps attended Northwestern University and earned a dual bachelors degree in economics and mathematics before entering the MBA program at Stanford.

Perspectives Charter Schools is a network of five high performing, tuition-free charter schools. Chartered by the State of Illinois in 1997, Perspectives schools are non-selective sixth through twelfth grade urban public schools with an innovative curriculum noted for its double-period math and literacy classes, longer school days, and frequent field studies and project- based learning opportunities.

Perspectives aims to prepare students for success in college, the workplace and in life through a rigorous and relevant education based on its “A Disciplined Life©” philosophy, a set of principles meant to guide students to become intellectually reflective, caring and ethical people.

As a result of Perspectives’ “College for Certain” initiative, 92 percent of Perspectives seniors graduate on time, 89 percent enroll in college, and after three years of tracking, 76 percent are still enrolled in college— a success rate unequalled by most comparable schools.

Note for Editors: A photo of Ms. Hopps is available at the following link:

http://www.mkcpr.com/filebin/Rhonda_Hopps_300RGB.jpg

Photo is courtesy of Perspectives Charter Schools. High-res version available upon request.

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